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APRIL, 1997

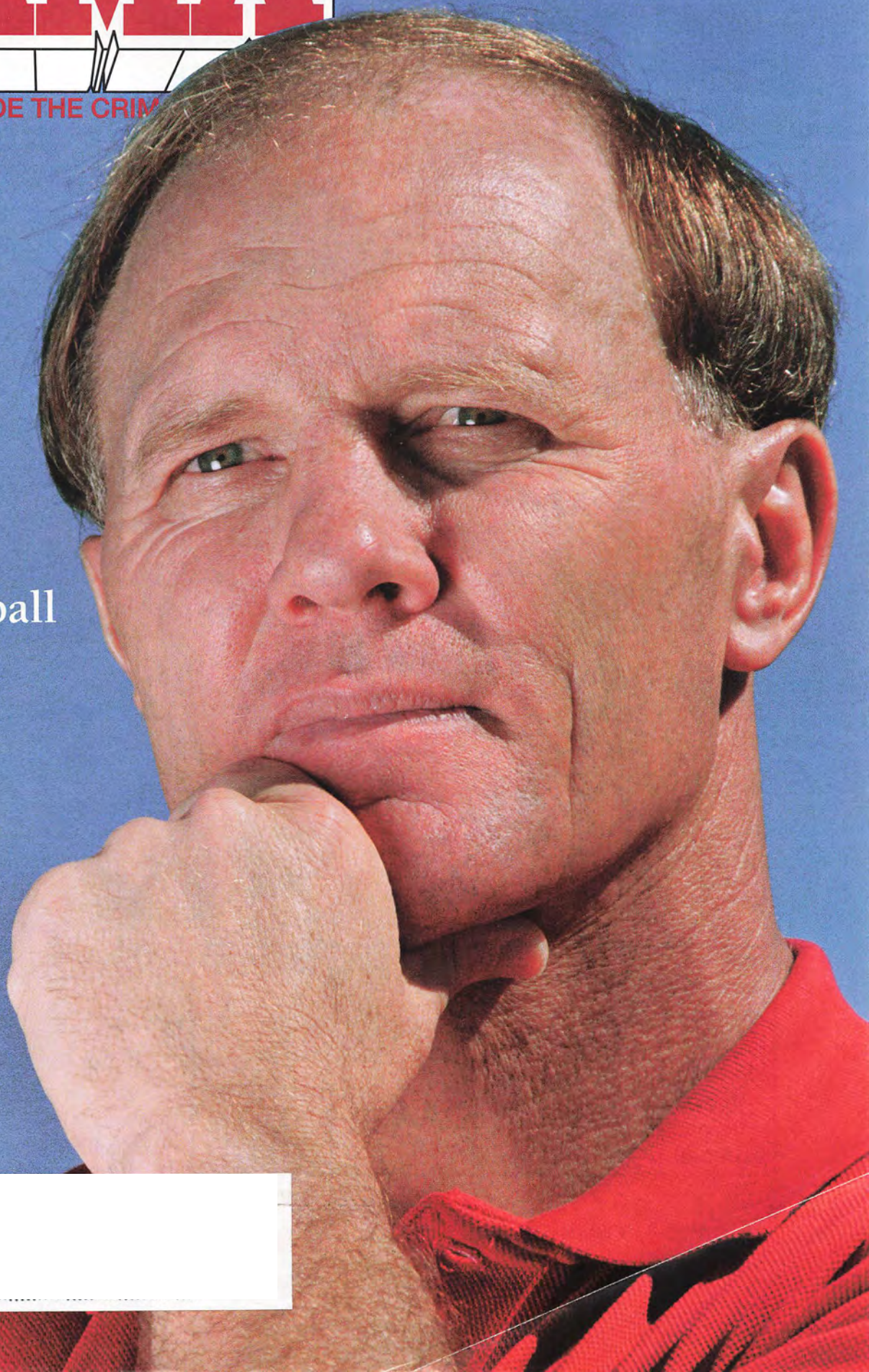
VOLUME 19, NUMBER 4

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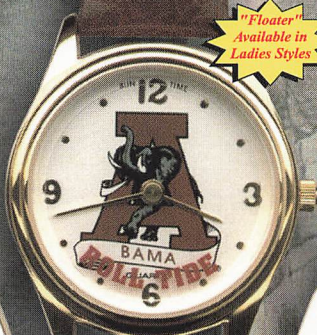
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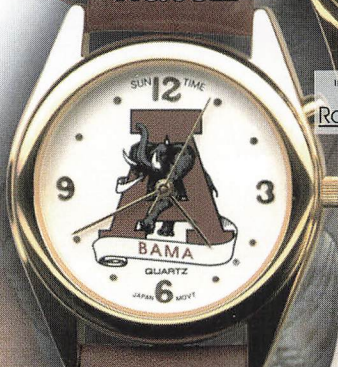
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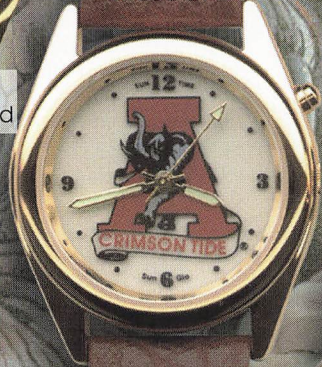
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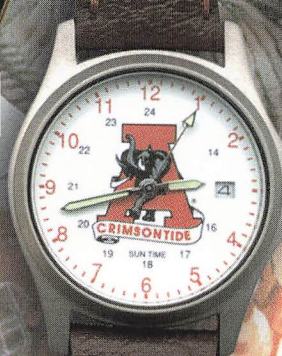
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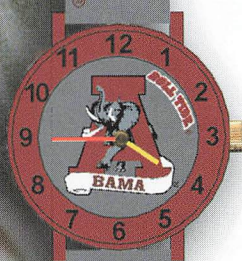


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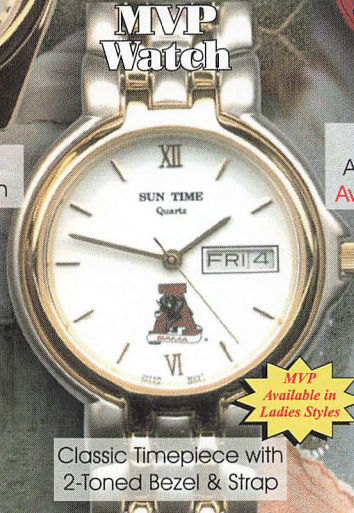


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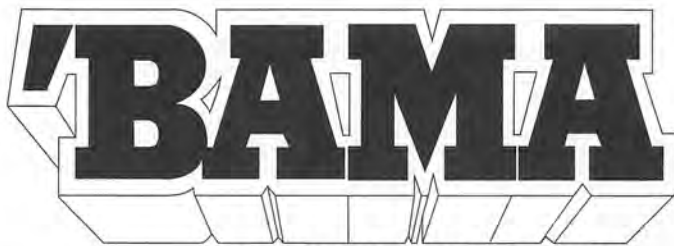
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'BAMA, Inside The Crimson Tide/APRIL '97



INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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Barry Fikes Photo



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Many of the names and faces will be the same, but based on early spring practice work Alabama under Mike DuBose will be different than Alabama of the past. Spring training is a time for experimentation and a time for building a team, and DuBose and staff are working hard at both.

by Kirk McNair

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This Won't Be Same Football Team

by Kirk McNair

DuBose stamp is clearly on practice as he takes over Crimson Tide football

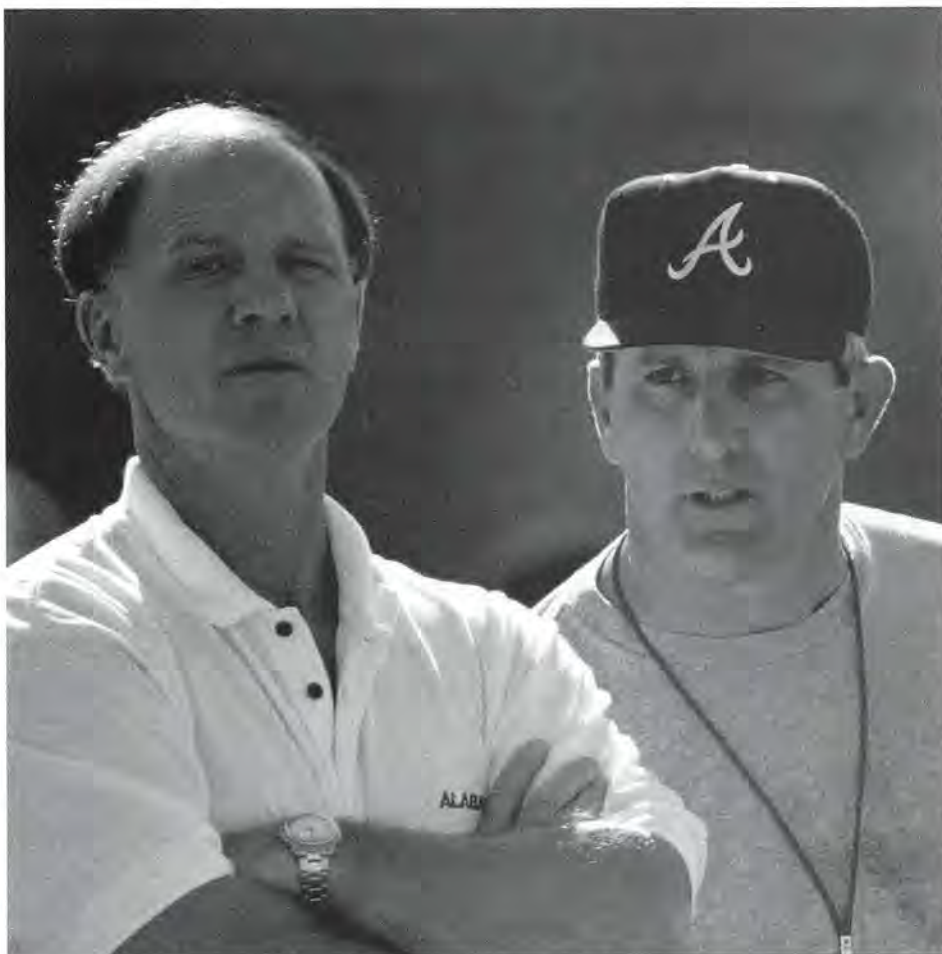
When Ray Perkins opened his first spring as Alabama's head football coach in 1983, there were obvious differences in the manner in which practices were conducted compared to the way they had been run under Paul Bryant. That comes under the heading of there being more than one right way to do things. Perkins, like his successor, Bill Curry, and Curry's successor, Gene Stallings, had a background in professional football. Under all three the emphasis was on practicing the players who were going to be playing.

Mike DuBose has some professional football experience, too, as an assistant under Perkins at Tampa Bay. And following a hectic three months as head coach, DuBose noted that his time in pro football had been valuable from a time management standpoint. However, there is no question DuBose is going to conduct Alabama football practices in a different manner than Stallings, much closer to the way in which he practiced as a player under Bryant. Those who aren't in the playing rotation do much more than stand and watch or perform as scout team players. Under DuBose, football practice is an equal opportunity experience.

Things aren't exactly the same as in the Bryant era, in great part because of time limitations. A Bryant practice could last a very long time. Practice time is limited now, a team permitted only four hours per day and 20 hours per week for all football-related activities, including meetings and weight-room work. For that reason, DuBose has organized practice to get a lot done in a relatively little time.

Although spring practice cannot really be compared to fall practice, when a team is preparing for games, there is also a reminder of offense as it was under Homer Smith. When Smith was Bama's quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator under Curry, it was the style of the Tide to have work on all phases of the offense each day. Under Stallings, each day was reserved for a specific phase of the game (third down situations or goalline situations, for instance). Thus far in spring, the Tide appears to be putting in work on every phase every day—some first down work, third down situations, goalline drills, two-minute operations, etc.

There are other differences, too, even to such little things as DuBose not using a whistle (he never did as an assistant coach).



Alabama Head Coach Mike DuBose has a word with one of the new members of his staff, Neil Callaway, who is coaching Bama's offensive linemen.
Barry Fikes Photo

Instead of the head coach blowing a whistle to change a drill, a manager squeezes off a blast on an air horn. But the primary changes are more substantive.

Most noticeable is the activity. DuBose referred to "time management" in regard to

the demands placed on him as a speaker, etc. However, that trait is showing up in Alabama practices. With the exception of kickers, no one is getting rest at Tide practices. Up to three groups are at work at any one time, the first offense going against the second defense, the second offense working against the first defense, and the third team offenses and defenses clashing.

Now It's DuBose

While it may not be as dramatic as changing from Lew Alcindor to Kareem Abdul Jabbar, new fame has forced a slight name change for Alabama's head football coach.

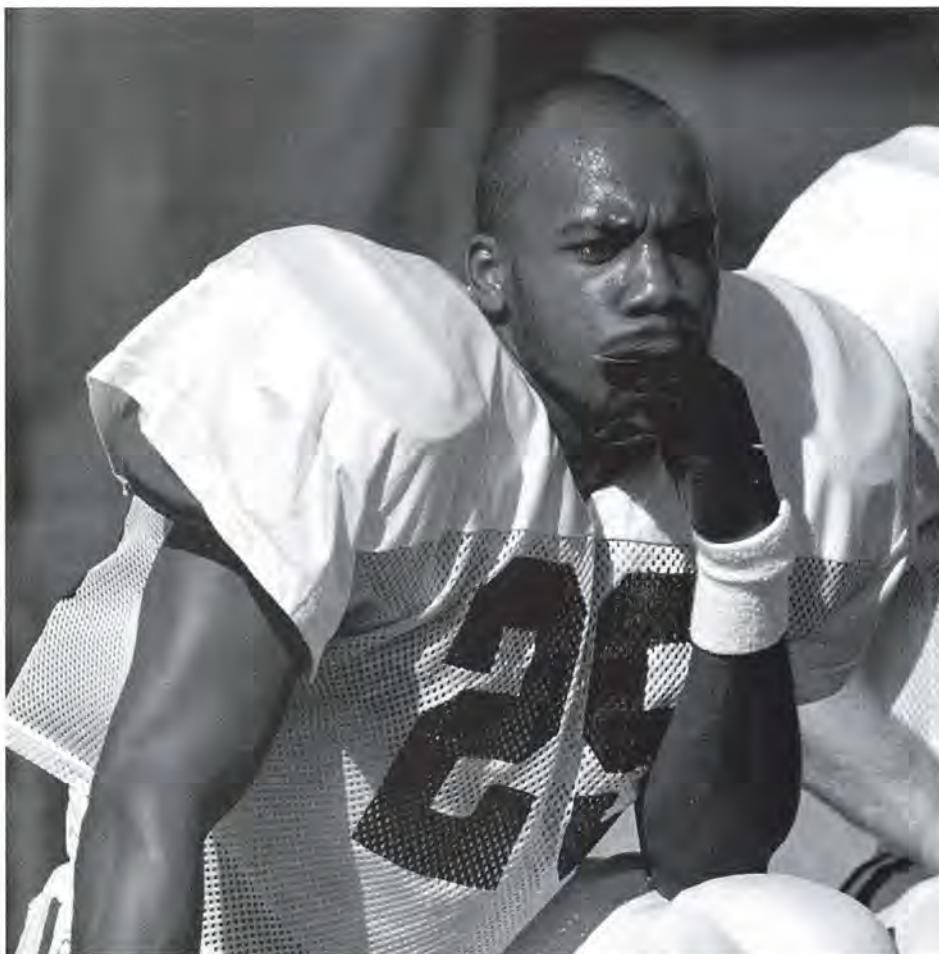
Now it's Mike DuBose, DuBose with a capital "B."

From the day he arrived at Alabama as a freshman in 1972, he had been Dubose, but he admitted it was a matter of convenience. "Everyone in my family has always put the 'B' up," DuBose said. "But I was just lazy. It was just easier for me."

However, at the urging of family members, notably Uncle Ed DuBose of Andalusia, DuBose has agreed to revert to the traditional spelling.

Perhaps most interesting is the new offense installed by Offensive Coordinator Bruce Arians. Although the Tide occasionally lines up in the I formation and continues to have fullbacks and halfbacks (now called H and F), most of the work is done from a split backfield with the look of a left halfback and a right halfback.

For the most part, the right halfbacks (F) are the old fullbacks, Ed Scissum, Trevis Smith and Dustin McClintock, and the left halfbacks are the speedsters, Dennis Riddle, Shaun Alexander, Curtis Alexander and Montoya Madden. However, Riddle has also worked at F, and that is the look that the new offense promised, an offense with two



Dennis Riddle has been a tailback in his three previous seasons at Alabama. As he approaches his senior year he will be playing in a split backfield. Riddle has been the most impressive back in the new offense, in part because he has shown he can play both running back spots and because of his blocking.

Barry Fikes Photo

dangerous running threats. "But," DuBose pointed out, "it's a balanced backfield and they all have to do the same things, which is run, catch and block." The Tide head coach knew that Riddle is an accomplished blocker, but he was pleasantly surprised to see Shaun Alexander making crisp blocks. For his part, Scissum is not going to give up playing time easily, even though his position has been drastically altered. He has run hard and has caught the ball well.

Another change in the early work was the passing to tight end Rod Rutledge. Rutledge apparently was primed to be a major cog in the offense. Bama coaches were anxious to take advantage of a 6-5, 265-pounder who ran a 4.6-second 40-yard dash in workouts for a handful of professional football scouts prior to the start of spring training. However, on the third day of practice, the first in full gear, Rutledge suffered an injury to his left knee. He will miss the remainder of the spring, but the diagnosis is about as good as could be expected. He will not have to have surgery and should be working out in plenty of time to be ready to practice in August.

The quarterbacks are expected to be "live" during scrimmages, meaning they will not

be protected. But in most work the quarterbacks are wearing cherry-red jerseys, close in color to the crimson jerseys worn by defensive players and clearly standing out from the white jerseys worn by other offensive players. That's a signal that the quarterbacks are protected from contact.

DuBose noted, "There have been a lot of questions about and a lot of interest in the quarterback position. I've really been pleased with Freddie (Kitchens), particularly from a leadership standpoint and from an understanding standpoint. I've been impressed with him. He's made good decisions and he's throwing the ball well. He seems to have a better understanding of the offense than the others."

DuBose has spent most of his time with the offense, and he said, "I think it's an excellent package. What I've seen is exciting. I was intrigued by what I saw out of our split backs (offense). The more I saw of it, the more I liked. I knew it was the best formation for passing, but I had a concern about what we could do out of the formation running the football. I like what I see."

Also noticeable in early work was Alabama's attention to work on special teams. Although every coach recognizes the



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Assistant Coach Jeff Rouzie takes a moment to give instructions to linebacker Paul Pickett (42) during Alabama spring football practice. While the spring is the time for instruction, for the most part Tide players are on the move as Bama under Mike DuBose works to have a maximum number of plays run in each practice. Pickett started a handful of games last fall and is the most experienced returning linebacker. Barry Fikes Photo

importance of the kicking teams, the limited practice time in the spring, along with the fact that key members of special teams will frequently come from new players who arrive in the fall, usually means that special teams work is neglected in the spring. That does not appear to be the case under DuBose. Bama is working on place-kicking and punting in every practice.

"We haven't done a lot of special teams work during spring training in the past," DuBose said. "But it's got to get better." Although the kickers have been satisfactory, particularly place-kicker Chad Barron, there has been some concern about finding new snappers.

It is easier to notice the work of some players in practice than it is others. A running back's good and bad work is more easily spotted than that of an offensive guard, for instance. And the stand-out in early work was that of a skill position player, flanker Michael Vaughn.

Although DuBose surprised reporters following the first practice by saying the only thing that disappointed him was the time it took players and coaches to

move from one drill to another. Practice-watchers had thought that had been very efficient. In the next couple of days the transition went quicker and quicker.

"That's important," DuBose said. "The faster we can make that transition, the more reps we can get."

"We were always busy," quarterback Freddie Kitchens said. "We never had a break. We got a lot more accomplished. It's fun and we're learning a lot. We never had a chance to take a knee or anything like that. In the past, we might not be doing anything for two or three periods, but now everyone is busy. Everyone is doing something all the time."

That efficiency pays off in several ways. Obviously, the more repetitions a player gets the better player he is likely to be. Additionally, the time saved means time can also be spent on things like special teams work and in the weight room. Finally, DuBose has been able to do away with the time-consuming post-practice wind sprints. "We're getting that conditioning by running football plays," he said.

Then on the fourth practice day, the second day in pads, DuBose noticed a trend

that disturbed him. "We seemed to slow down," DuBose said. He said if that practice was "any indication, we're not as tough a football team as we need to be. We let the situation beat us. You're either going to go forward or you're going to go backward, and today I felt we went backward. We can't afford to waste one day, and I feel like we did today."

Although DuBose said he and his assistant coaches had to take some of the blame for not properly motivating the squad, he also issued a warning. "They got a little tired today and gave into it," he said. "That's sending me a message that we need to work harder. We can't afford to slow down and not have as many repetitions as we need. If we're going to slow down, we'll do away with meeting time and spend all four hours on the practice field."

DuBose said, "It got tough out there and they gave into it. Once you've gone through it a few times, you aren't scared of it anymore, but right now it scares them and they quit. It's important to have the confidence that the tougher the situation is, the more it is an advantage to you."

Although DuBose was disappointed in his

team's performance that day, despite the fatigue there is little doubt that this Alabama football team is a better-conditioned team than recent Crimson Tide squads. And DuBose has given credit for that to the man he picked to be the football strength and conditioning coach, Terry Jones.

Jones was rewarded for his work with the off-season football program when Athletics Director Bob Bockrath named Jones head coach of strength and conditioning. He replaces LeBaron Caruthers, who was brought in by Stallings. Jones, who played at Alabama in the mid-1970s and then with the Green Bay Packers, has been an assistant strength coach, working primarily with men's basketball, since 1988.

"We have not been a strong football team," DuBose said of recent Crimson Tide squads. "We're still not strong enough, but we are stronger."

DuBose is constantly on the move, watching one group, then another. He takes notes to remind him of areas he wants to address in later meetings and practices.

And the assistant coaches don't just move from drill-to-drill with the first teamers. Because of a limit on coaching staffs, there aren't enough full-time coaches to go around. A few graduate assistants have ordinarily handled scout team players. But now the assistants will spend a period with the first team, then move to work with the second team for the next period.

"That does two things," DuBose said. "One, it gives every player an opportunity to work with his position coach. And, two, it gives the coaches a better opportunity to evaluate the players."

Prior to the start of practice, DuBose said the goals were:

A-Day Schedule

Here is the schedule for Saturday, April 19, the final day of Alabama's spring football practice:

9-11 a.m.—Fan Day in Coleman Coliseum

9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.—Fan Interactives on Thomas-Drew practice fields

11:15-11:45 a.m.—Walk of Fame ceremonies at Denny Chimes

2 p.m.—A-Day Scrimmage

- To identify the top two players at each position. He said that he knew the two-deep would change at some positions and that in some cases incoming players would be in the two-deep in August, but that it is important to come out of the spring with two men at each position. DuBose said there may be more than two at some positions, but also noted that Bama does not currently have two players at some spots and that depth must be developed.

- Identify the roles of the players. He said that it was important to know what players could do, what they do best, and what they cannot do. He said he wants to put players in a position to do what they can do best, and not put them in a position to do something they cannot do. He noted that with the losses of Dwayne Rudd and Ralph Staten at the outside linebacker spots, it will be necessary to find out if their replacements can do some of the things Rudd and Staten can do insofar as coverages.

- Put in as much offense, defense and kicking game as possible. He said it would be very important to have all of the defense and offense in because of the emphasis that

will be put on game management in scrimmage work. The Tide will work with a 25-second clock. DuBose said he wants the defense to be able to make all the coverage calls it will make in the fall and he wants Bama quarterbacks to have all the audibles at their disposal this spring.

- Develop oneness. DuBose said he is convinced that a winning team has to be a team in which there is singleness of purpose "without worrying about who gets the credit." He said he wanted to see how the players and the coaches develop in that area in the spring.

- Continue to work on strength. He said practice times would be devised to allow this.

DuBose said the general offensive philosophy would be to open things up so that the defense has to defend the entire width of the field as well as defend downfield. He said the quarterbacks would have a lot of flexibility and that it would be their charge to get the ball into the hands of the running backs and the wide receivers and to throw the ball deep.

He said the concern on defense is linebacker. But, he said, it's an opportunity for some young players who have not played much to earn playing time. He said all of the linebacker candidates would get a lot of work in the spring.

Despite any changes, DuBose said the philosophy would continue to be physical. He said he considered the so-called West Coast offense to be a finesse offense and that Bama would be the type team that would still want to run the football first. He said that Bama would likely have a scheme of using two halfbacks (rather than a halfback and fullback) at the same time in hopes of having a quicker team in with the idea of getting a running back covered by a linebacker.

A Guess At Alabama's Spring Football Depth Chart

Although Alabama does not issue its depth chart, a reasonable guess based on past performances and on observation of practices can be made at how the Crimson Tide is lining up as it nears the halfway point of spring training. As many as 130 players, more than half of them walk-ons, have been on the practice fields and not all of them are included in this chart. Additionally, the depth chart does not include tight end Rod Rutledge, who was clearly number one before suffering a spring-ending knee injury, nor does it include three players who are missing the spring because of recuperation from surgery. They are guard Will Friend (knee), guard-center Brenon Meadows (shoulder) and cornerback Thomas Hill (ankle). All are expected back for pre-season drills in August.

Offense

Split End—Calvin Hall, Shamari Buchanan, Thad Abernathy
 Left Tackle—Chris Samuels, Griff Redmill, Joel Holliday
 Left Guard—Sage Spree, Kelvis White, Chris Sign
 Center—Michael Ray, Paul Hogan, Ty Babcock, Matt Harrison
 Right Guard—Michael Moore, Corey Kinnebrew, Josh Swords
 Right Tackle—Chris Jordan, Jason McDonald, Brian Brasseal
 Tight End—Clint Waggoner, Rhett Crutchfield, Adam Joiner
 Quarterback—Freddie Kitchens, John David Phillips, Lance Tucker, Warren Foust
 Halfback—Dennis Riddle, Shaun Alexander, Curtis Alexander, Montoya Madden
 Fullback—Ed Scissum, Trevis Smith, Dustin McClintock
 Flanker—Michael Vaughn, Chad Goss, Tim Bowens, T.K. Bowman

Punter—Daniel Pope, Jason Kellen

Defense

Left End—Chris Hood, Edgar Walker
 Left Tackle—Eric Kerley, Heath Panks, Marquis Forge
 Right Tackle—Michael Myers, Jamie Carter, Chris Warren
 Right End—Reggie Grimes, Kevin Flowers
 Strongside Linebacker—Tito Smith, Steve Stanley
 Middle Linebacker—Paul Pickett, Granison Wagstaff, Rob-E Staten
 Weakside Linebacker—Chris Edwards, Eddie Hunter, Steve Harris
 Left Cornerback—Fernando Bryant, Michael Feagin
 Right Cornerback—Deshea Townsend, Owen Winston
 Strong Safety—Andre Short, Jason Jones, Chauncey Teague
 Safety—Kelvin Sigler, Travis Crim, Marcus Spencer

Kickers

Place-Kicker—Chad Barron, Brian Cunningham, Ryan Pflugner, Jonah Dismukes

Tide Football To Be More Interesting

by Kirk McNair

But upgraded schedules and stadium and challenge to be competitive come with price

For years Alabama football fans have complained about the drop in quality of the non-conference football schedule. After the likes of Southern Cal, Nebraska, Penn State and Notre Dame dotting the Crimson Tide schedule in the 1970s and early 1980s, consecutive Athletics Directors Steve Sloan and Hootie Ingram watered down the schedule with the Louisiana Techs of the world.

There was a pragmatic reason for that, particularly beginning in 1992 with an expanded Southeastern Conference schedule. When the SEC split into divisions, every SEC team was given four home games and four road games against conference teams. That did two things: it improved the quality of the league schedule (up from six games) and it meant that in order to have seven home games, all the non-conference games had to be home contests. There was a belief at Alabama that in order to make the budget, Bama had to have seven home football games.

When Bob Bockrath took over as athletics director last year, one of the things he promised was to upgrade the Alabama football schedule. He's making good on his promise. Non-conference opponents on Alabama's future schedules on a home-and-home basis include UCLA in 2000-2001, Oklahoma (tentatively) in 2002-2003, Penn State in 2004-2005, and Notre Dame in 2006-2007. These games will be played in Tuscaloosa. (Negotiations with Southern Cal were proceeding well, but the teams could not work out dates in the next decade.)

But the upgrade comes with a price.

You don't get Notre Dame to come to Tuscaloosa unless you also go to South Bend. And when Alabama loses a home game, it loses about \$1.6 million. Football and men's basketball are the only Crimson Tide sports that bring in more revenue than they spend. Football, particularly, pays the bills so Alabama can field all other sports.

The price increase will go into effect before the big games begin, but the price of an Alabama football ticket won't be out of line with those of most other high-profile schools.

Beginning this year, Alabama football tickets will be \$26 each, an increase of \$4. Additionally, the athletics department will have the option to charge a premium price of \$30 per ticket for up to two games per



Bob Bockrath

year, games against teams such as Auburn, Florida and Tennessee in the SEC and the high-profile non-conference opponents such as those announced for the next decade. Bockrath said the ticket prices would not be raised again until the year 2000 or later. While Tide Pride levels will remain the same this year, that program will be reviewed.

The letter compared Alabama's increased ticket prices to those of other schools. The \$26 rate is the same as those at LSU and

Penn State; higher than the \$20 at Florida, \$24 at Tennessee and \$25 at Texas; and lower than that charged at Michigan and Notre Dame (\$32), Colorado (\$30) and Ohio State (\$29). The chart also noted that three SEC teams (Arkansas, Ole Miss and Vanderbilt) have premium game charges. Ironically, the premium game for all three is the Alabama game.

Alabama's athletics department isn't broke, but in order to maintain and increase the competitive level of all sports, big bucks have to be spent. Alabama is in the midst of an expansion of Bryant-Denny Stadium, but additions to and improvement of almost all other facilities are needed.

Bockrath cited a number of these expenses in his letter. Among them were a new strength facility and medical treatment/rehabilitation center for athletes; improved academic support facilities; softball stadium; tennis center; improvements to Coleman Coliseum, Sewell-Thomas Baseball Stadium, Alabama Aquatic Center, Hank Crisp Indoor Facility, and the soccer facility. Numerous studies have shown that the major factor in recruiting is facilities, and Bockrath is determined to have Alabama's at a level commensurate with Crimson Tide athletics success.

As reported earlier, Alabama has contracted with HOK, Inc., of St. Louis to conduct a comprehensive analysis of current athletics facilities with five-year and ten-year plans for facilities. Those recommendations are expected to be completed in July.

Alabama Football Schedules

1997			1998		
Date	Opponent	Time*	Date	Opponent	
Aug. 30	Houston @ Birmingham	1:00	Sept. 5	Brigham Young	
Sept. 11	@ Vanderbilt (ESPN)	7:00	Sept. 12	Vanderbilt	
Sept. 20	Arkansas	TBA	Sept. 19	@ Arkansas	
Sept. 27	Southern Miss @ Birmingham	TBA	Sept. 26	East Carolina	
Oct. 4	@ Kentucky	6:00	Oct. 3	Florida	
Oct. 18	Tennessee @ Birmingham	TBA	Oct. 17	Ole Miss	
Oct. 25	@ Ole Miss	TBA	Oct. 24	@ Tennessee	
Nov. 1	Louisiana Tech (homecoming)	1:00	Oct. 31	Southern Miss	
Nov. 8	LSU	TBA	Nov. 7	@ LSU	
Nov. 15	Mississippi State	TBA	Nov. 14	@ Miss. State	
Nov. 22	@ Auburn	6:30	Nov. 21	Auburn	
Dec. 6	SEC Championship @ Atlanta	7:00	Sites of home games and times to be announced.		
*Central time, subject to change					

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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

Chad Goss:

He Has Made Himself A Player

by Donald F. Staffo

Other than size and speed, senior wide receiver has all the attributes of a winner

Chad Goss is in many ways typical of a walk-on football player at Alabama. As most who try out for the Crimson Tide, Goss was an outstanding high school player, but was not offered a major college scholarship following his prep career. And as most walk-ons who have made it to a final season, he spent plenty of time on the practice field, not much time on the playing field, in the early part of his career.

Frankly, most who try out for Alabama's football team don't make it. Obstacles are greater and more frequent than opportunities for non-scholarshipped players. However, Goss has beaten the odds. He has earned playing time and he has been awarded a scholarship.

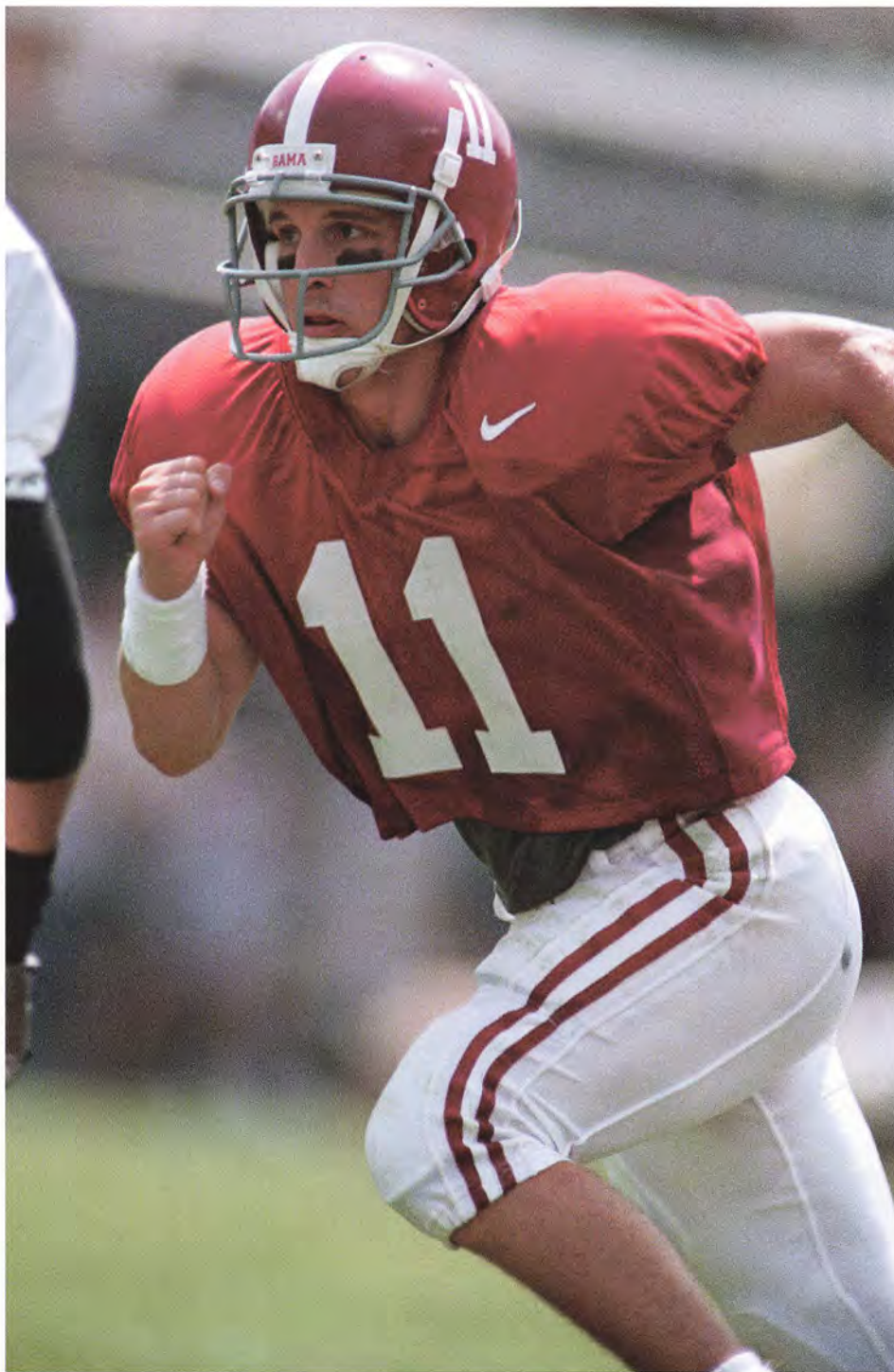
Goss was a highly-touted option quarterback at Warner Robins High School, a perennial Georgia powerhouse. As a senior he completed 100 of 162 passes for 1,375 yards (including hitting 22 of 33 for 284 yards and a pair of touchdowns in a playoff game) and earned All-Middle Georgia honors. However, the only scholarship offers came from smaller schools, West Georgia, Georgia Southern, Valdosta State and Samford). Goss wanted to give it a try in the big time, and so he walked on at Alabama.

Quarterback—particularly option quarterback—was not an option at Bama when Goss went out for the team in 1993. He sought out Woody McCorvey, who was coaching the receivers, and asked for a shot at wide receiver. His first season was a predictable redshirt year and he didn't see any game action in 1994, either. The path was about par for a walk-on.

But in practices, Goss was opening some eyes. That resulted in him seeing occasional duty in 1995 as a third-year sophomore. And last year he worked his way into the rotation at wide receiver and also earned the job as punt return man.

As a junior last year he played in nine games during the regular season and also played in both the Southeastern Conference Championship Game and in the Outback Bowl. During regular season play he had six receptions for 44 yards and returned 12 punts for 83 yards. His busiest day came against Southern Miss, when he pulled in three passes for 22 yards.

While Goss has been a part of relatively few plays at Alabama, a handful of those plays have been



A high school quarterback, Chad Goss walked on at Alabama and became a wide receiver and punt return specialist.

Barry Fikes Photo
Indeed, his first-ever reception at Alabama in his sophomore year in 1995 against Vanderbilt stands out. In the first quarter the game was tied at 7-7 in Nashville and Alabama faced fourth and 14 at its own 28. There was no reason for anyone to be-

lieve that Head Coach Gene Stallings would do anything but punt.

There are two basic punt formations—tight, which is to provide maximum protection for the punter, and spread, which has players flanked wide to get down on coverage—and

Bama had called for tight punt formation. However, at the last moment the call was changed to spread. That meant Goss was in the game.

During preparation for the season-opener, Alabama had worked on a fake punt/pass play. Punter Hayden Stockton was to check to see if the Commodores put a man on the receivers. If they did not, he had the option to pass.

"Coach (McCorvey) told us that the play would only work on our first punt of the year," Goss said. "I walked onto the field inside the numbers and no one covered me."

McCorvey said, "They didn't send anybody out to cover Chad and it was a heads-up play on Hayden's part."

Stockton threw to Goss and the play went for 49 yards, the second-longest pass play Bama would have that season. "I faked out the punt returner and a guy from the other side of the field tackled me," Goss said. "If I had had one more block, I could have scored."

McCorvey noted that it was not a new play. "We put it in a few years earlier and Tommy Johnson got 60 yards on a pass from Bryne Diehl."

The coach added, "In a situation like that, what you look for is a special guy who can do special things."

Goss also had two memorable plays in the Outback Bowl victory over Michigan. As the punt return man, Goss almost set himself up to be a goat. With the Tide trailing, 6-3, in the third quarter, Goss made a fair catch on the Bama one-yard line instead of letting the punt go into the end zone for a touchback. "I was standing on the 10-yard line to receive the punt," Goss said. "It was a real sunny day, and I was concentrating on the ball and didn't realize I'd taken a few steps back. When I came off the field, Coach Stallings said, 'You don't know how angry that makes me.'"

But with 1:16 to play in the game and the Crimson Tide clinging to a 17-14 lead after Michigan had just marched 80 yards for a touchdown, Goss made up for the earlier mental lapse. He was positioned along the sidelines for the anticipated on-sides kick from Michigan. The ball hopped high, a perfect on-sides kick, but Goss was there to make a leaping grab, enabling the Tide offense to run out the clock and secure the win. "When I came off the field, Coach Stallings said, 'You're forgiven,'" Goss said.

Goss is 5-11 and 180 pounds. Dabo Swinney, who coached Bama's wide receivers last season, said, "He doesn't look like a college-type receiver. He's not tall, he doesn't have great speed (4.7 in the 40-yard dash), and he doesn't have the great talent of a Michael Vaughn. But he makes up for that with his head, his heart, his quickness and his work ethic. If you took that and gave it to all our players, we would win the national championship every year. That's why he's where he is. He's the

kind of player every coach likes to have."

Goss is versatile. Last year, in addition to returning punts, he played the two standard wide receiver positions, flanker and split end, and also played in the slot in the three-wide receiver set. The positions require different skills and not all receivers can play them. Whereas the split end is stationary along the line of scrimmage like the other linemen, the flanker plays off the line and can go into motion and is more likely to be used as a running back on a reverse. The slot man ordinarily runs routes similar to those of a tight end, usually no more than 12 yards downfield, and most likely will be covered by a linebacker rather than a defensive back.

"He can play any of the positions," Swinney said. "His versatility is one reason he plays as much as he does. He's the best route-runner we have, and that's because he understands coverages and he works at it. Chad has made himself into a valuable player for us."

Even though Goss isn't known for speed, he does have great quickness, which is a valuable attribute for a wide receiver. McCorvey said, "He has knowledge and quickness and he can get open, and he also has good hands to catch the ball in a crowd. He can do a lot of things. He can throw, he can catch, return punts, and, if we needed him to, he could probably punt the ball. He wasn't a punter in high school, but he's that kind of athlete."

Goss draws even better reviews as a person than he does as a player. "He's a tremendous person," McCorvey said. "You never see him down. He's got a pleasant personality and he's always got a smile on his face. And he comes to give you a day's work every day. He's not a selfish person or a selfish football player. Whatever you ask him to do, he'll do it."

"Chad's just a quality person," Swinney said. "He's got his priorities in the right order. He's a 'Yes sir' and 'No sir' kind of guy. He's the type of guy you'd want your daughter to meet."

Well, he's met a daughter. In May Goss will marry women's basketball player Leah Monteith.

Goss is president of Alabama's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Bama's representative on the SEC's "Good Works Team." He spends much time speaking and tries to emulate the man who was leader of his Bible study group when he came to Alabama, former Tide quarterback Jay Barker. Goss hopes one day to pastor a church.

Last year Goss was one of a handful of former non-scholarshipped players who were given scholarships. "I was so happy and very relieved," he said. "It lifted a lot of financial burdens." Now, he said, "I'm living out the dreams of millions of kids who want to grow up and play football for the Alabama Crimson Tide. I know that this is a great opportunity, and I don't take it for granted."

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Last Chance For Playing Time

by Jeff Janes

Fifth-year senior hasn't had career he expected, but he hasn't lost hope

Football always came easy for Edgar Walker, ever since he started his first high school game in the ninth grade as a 200-pound defensive tackle. Not playing the sport was never a consideration despite the fact he did not put on pads until his freshman season at Dothan High School.

The progeny of four football-talented uncles was certain to make an impact on the game like none of them had been able to do, or so the story went. There is no doubt that after his senior season at Dothan, Walker was one of the top defensive prospects in the state of Alabama. He ranked among the top ten players in the state by several publications and was a first team 6A all-state selection. Physically he developed into a fine defensive end on the high school level and the promise of a bright collegiate career awaited him. "I weighed about 235 pounds at the end of my senior season," Walker said. "In high school there were usually four or five good athletes and I was one of them."

Indeed, Walker averaged 11 tackles per game for Coach Jimmy Addison and would parlay his talent into a football scholarship. He chose the Crimson Tide over the Auburn Tigers for academic reasons and because Tide coaches recruited him, not his family. "Other schools tried to influence my uncles more than they tried to influence me," Walker said. "Some of them told me they would put me in a junior college if I didn't qualify but Alabama told me that if I didn't have the qualifying ACT score, they weren't interested in me at all. I really respected the fact that they took education seriously."

Walker is philosophical in his views on football but claims, during high school and the first few years of college, he was a complete opposite of his current self. His first brush with philosophy and the harsh reality of attending a Division I university came not from personal experience but from his high school coach. "Coach Addison told me that Alabama had given me a \$40,000 check and it was my decision of whether to take it and build my future, or rip it up," Walker said. As a human performance major at the University, he works to build a future in coaching with "the check."

Alabama has a long tradition of outstanding defensive linemen, an appealing recruiting tool. After the 1992 national championship made its way to The Capstone, Walker's interest in the Tide grew considerably. Superstars Eric Curry and John Copeland, who were National Football League draft choices, carried the banner of defense that marked Alabama's resurgence to national prominence. The high profile status of "The Bookends" gave Walker reason to believe he would eventually wind up playing professional football. "I honestly thought that I would play three years at Alabama and then go to the NFL," Walker said. He had been successful in high school and he expected that success to carry him to the next level.

However, as many true freshman find out, the transition from high school to college is more difficult than can be imagined. His defensive line teammates were, in some cases, bigger, stronger and faster than Walker. "It was tough mentally because I was the low man on the totem pole and I wasn't familiar with it," Walker said.

The figurative initiation for the green-handed Walker began with words of advice from his older and wiser teammates. They warned him not to let then-Defensive Line Coach Mike Dubose rattle him. The advice was not heeded at first and things got so bad that Walker considered quitting the team. Walker described Dubose's tactics as a combination that is both professorial and intimidating at the same time. He learned to expect the worst from Dubose during practice and never fully understood the rhyme or reason of the ritual until the spring of his junior season.

And then it clicked. Walker had a very good practice during 1996 and carried high expectations out of spring drills. In fact, during the final scrimmage of spring training he recorded two sacks and had one quarterback pressure. The patience Walker had invested had seemingly begun to pay dividends.

Walker freely admits that he, in the past, has had questionable workout habits in the weight room. His six-foot, five-inch frame carried 250 pounds at this time last season, a light playing weight not typical of Dubose-coached defensive linemen. After the conclusion of spring practice, Walker was called to Dubose's office. "He told me if I did not get my act together, I wouldn't be on the team," Walker said. "Coach told me that when he played, players used weights only to gain an advantage. Now, everyone uses weights just to stay even."

Spring practice had been his highest and lowest point at Alabama but Walker

seemed to answer the psychological challenge Dubose presented him. He did not miss a single workout during the summer of '96. He conditioned and worked himself into playing shape and added 20 pounds to his frame.

However, the 1996 season was, to say the least, frustrating for Walker. He played behind Chris Hood and Reggie Grimes for most of the year and never created an identity of his own. "It took me a while to realize that what Coach Dubose was doing was in my best interest," Walker said. "Even last season when I didn't get the opportunity to play much, I finally realized what it would take for me to get in the rotation."

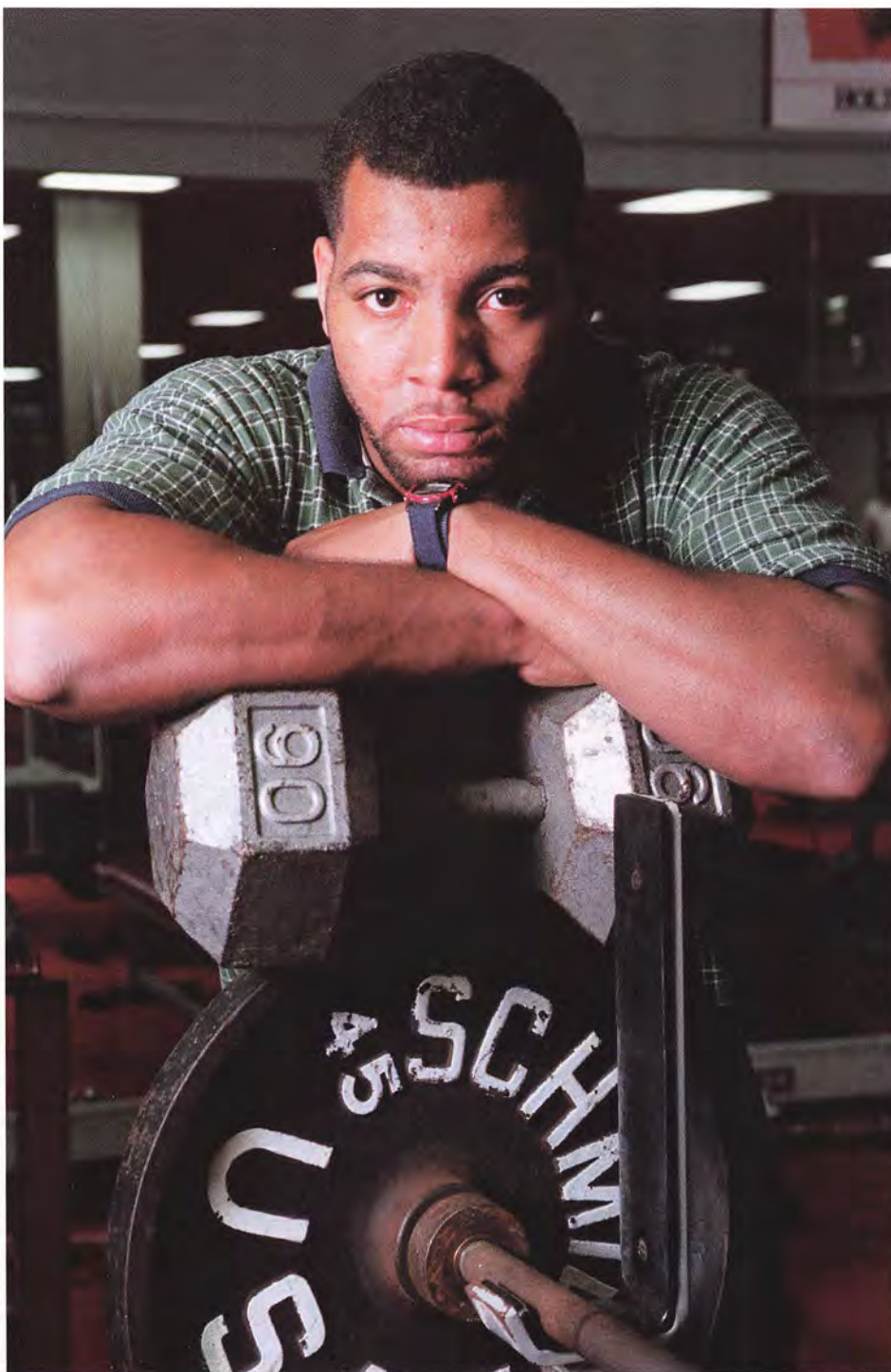
Walker was redshirted in 1993, played only sparingly in mop-up operations in 1994 and 1995 (when he had his biggest play, a sack for a nine-yard loss against North Carolina State), then was in every game last year as a member of the kicking teams.

A quick glance at the raw numbers would seem to indicate that Walker is due for playing time this year. Alabama returns Chris Hood, the starter on the left side last year, and Reggie Grimes, a back-up at both right end and tackle last fall. Kelvin Moore, who started at right end, and Anthony Dowdell, the top back-up on the left side, have both graduated. On the pre-spring depth chart, Walker was listed number two behind both Hood and Grimes.

It's no secret that Alabama has little depth at defensive end, barring the emergence of one of the incoming freshmen. While the Tide's signing class for 1997 has top-notch potential, none of the newcomers has any Division I playing experience, save what they will receive during fall practice. Freshmen-to-be defensive linemen include Sam Matthews, Larry Paul, Kenny Smith, Shawn Williams and Joe Yount.

Walker knows the 1997 season will be his last opportunity to make his name known to Crimson Tide fans and he reflects on his situation every day. "I tell myself to stay focused," Walker said. "I can pass rush really well but Coach Dubose tells me I need to work on securing the run better."

Not long ago, Walker happened to watch an NFL Films picture which featured all-Pro linebacker Chris Spellman. Spellman began to talk of the reasons he played football and what he loved about being a part of the NFL. He expressed the sentiment that winning the Super Bowl and being able to say he was part of the best team in the world as the most fulfilling goal he could attain. Spellman described the Super Bowl ring he would win and the complete satis-



Edgar Walker will be the first to admit that he didn't do all he could have done to make himself into a good college football player. He will have a new position coach this year, Ellis Johnson, but Walker learned his early lessons under Mike Dubose. Barry Fikes Photo

faction it would give him. As Walker sat and listened to Spellman, the answer became clear to why he plays the game. "Last year's senior class was the last class to have a ring," Walker said. "Right now, no one on this team has a ring and that is our goal for 1997. I expect to start and if I have the chance I won't turn it down."

Edgar Walker talks like a man who knows what it is like to miss opportunities but he also conveys a sense of having learned from his mistakes. "My biggest fear is failure and I want to play football but my ultimate goal is to graduate," Walker said. "Now I realize that I need to do whatever it takes to succeed without taking shortcuts."



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Dustan Mohr:

First Signee By Wells Is Producing

by John Barnes

Mohr didn't suffer sophomore slump, and now he's helping Tide towards title

With the Alabama baseball team off to its best start in school history, what initially figured to be a rebuilding year for Jim Wells' Tide now appears to have the possibility of another run at the College World Series. Following heavy losses from the Tide's 1996 Southeastern Conference championship team, Bama's early success may be surprising to some. Right fielder Dustan Mohr is not among them.

For the 6-0, 190-pound junior slugger from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Bama's success is not surprising. In fact, it's expected.

The first player to sign with Alabama prior to Wells' first season in 1995, Mohr has come to personify the never-say-die attitude and mental toughness that Wells demands of his players and of himself.

"We are quickly becoming the type of program that will compete for the national championship every year," said Mohr. "Coach Wells demands a great deal from his players, but he does it in such a way that it makes us want to give maximum effort all the time."

Giving maximum effort is something that has always come naturally to Mohr. Hotly recruited out of Oak Grove High School in Hattiesburg, Mohr was close to signing with national power Miami. His high school credentials tell the story. The most valuable player on back-to-back state championship teams, Mohr was a two-time all district selection, as well as first-team All-South. He was also named to the

Dustan Mohr was the first player signed by Jim Wells when Wells became head coach at Alabama following the 1994 season. And the Tide head coach is not surprised at the success Mohr has had for the Tide baseball team.

Barry Fikes Photo



Although junior Dustan Mohr is considered by scouts to be the top prospect on Alabama's nationally-ranked baseball team, Mohr said he and his teammates are thinking about a national championship, not what the future may hold for them as professional baseball players. Mohr is on a record-setting pace.

Barry Fikes Photo

Jackson Clarion-Ledger's all-state team and was an honorable mention All-America pick by *Collegiate Baseball* and *Baseball America*.

In the end, however, it was Jim Wells and the proximity to home that pointed Mohr toward The Capstone.

"Dustan was our first recruit when I took

the Alabama job," said Wells. "We found out about him from a pro scout who thought that college ball would be the best route for him at the time. I had only been on the job a short time. I knew nothing about the campus, but I knew this was one kid we needed to get. He had already verbally committed to Miami, but I knew that

with a little work, we might get him to change his mind."

Although impressed with Wells and his philosophy, Mohr's decision to sign with Alabama was based largely on the possibility of immediate playing time.

And play immediately he did, starting 60 games as a true freshman while helping the Tide to a 42-23 record and the SEC Western Division Tournament Championship. On the year, Mohr batted .264 with 12 home runs and 44 runs batted in. His 12 round-trippers not only led the team but landed him in the Tide record book with the most home runs ever hit by a freshman, surpassing the previous record held by Joe Vitiello, who had eight in 1989. In addition, he finished sixth in the SEC in homers while leading all conference freshmen in the category.

In SEC action, where the numbers really count, Mohr was equally, if not more impressive. In 29 SEC games, Mohr hit .248 with seven home runs and 17 RBI. He was second on the team in game-winning hits with six, including three in conference action.

During the month of March, when the Tide gets into the thick of conference play, Mohr was on fire. Going 28 for 78 (.359), he belted four homers and knocked in 21 runs in 21 games.

In the post-season, Mohr continued his torrid pace. At the SEC West Tournament in Starkville, he collected seven hits and scored four runs in helping his team to the championship.

In the NCAA Regional at Clemson, South Carolina, he had five hits and scored five runs, while homering and knocking in two.

Other highlights included belting two triples in one game against West Florida, making him the first Tider in 35 years to accomplish the feat. During a period from March 8-13, he had a seven-game hitting streak, batting .571 with eight runs, four doubles, two triples, three home runs and 11 RBI. At the Continental Aggie Classic, he hit .522 while belting two homers and three doubles. He posted a .913 slugging average and had a .522 on-base percentage and was named to the all-tournament team.

In a pivotal late-season game against LSU, Mohr rapped a lead-off home run in the 11th inning to lead his team to a dramatic come-from-behind victory.

"When I'm an old man, I'll look back on that season with a lot of pride," said Mohr. "No one expected anything out of us that year, but we pulled together and found a way to get it done. By the end of the year, we were a good baseball team. We won four games in our last at-bat in the tournament and I think that sums up what Coach Wells and this team are all about."

Last season, Mohr continued as one of his team's top offensive producers. Helping the Tide to its greatest season in school history,

he further cemented his reputation as the type of player who can get the big hit or belt the dramatic late-game homer at any time.

On the year, Mohr batted .306 with 52 runs scored, 10 home runs and 55 RBI. He led the team in doubles with 21 and collected 77 hits on the year. Hitting in the four spot in the batting order, as opposed to fifth in 1995, Mohr had fewer pitches to hit, but made the most of his opportunities, batting .259 against SEC opponents with two home runs and 19 RBI.

At the SEC Tournament in Birmingham, he hit .360 while scoring four and knocking in six. He had four hits in the Tide's dramatic double-header sweep of Florida that won the championship. For his efforts, he was named to the all-tournament team.

At the NCAA Regional in Tuscaloosa, he went 9 for 20 (.450) with one homer and three RBI. In the championship game against Virginia, he had four hits and scored four runs in helping his team to an 18-8 victory and the South 1 Regional Championship and a trip to the College World Series.

"Last year, we accomplished a goal we had dreamed of since the fall," said Mohr. "We played so well to get there (Omaha),

but when we did, we just couldn't put things together. I don't think it's because we were overconfident. I think a lot of us were just overwhelmed by the whole experience, plus we went against the best talent in the country. We learned some hard lessons up there. If we make it back this year, we'll know better."

If the team's, and Mohr's, early-season play is an indication of the remainder of the season, it is a distinct possibility.

Going 15-0 to start the season, Mohr has been without a doubt the team's hottest hitter in the early going.

Through the first 14 games, Mohr has eight homers and 23 RBI, the best start of any Tider in recent memory. He is on pace to break the school and SEC records for single-season home runs. At his current clip, he would break Doug Duke's single-season record of 27, as well as the SEC record of 29, set by Mississippi State's Rafael Palmero. He is also on track to break David Magadan's single-season RBI record of 95. As of March 11, he was tied for fifth on the Alabama career home run list with 30, only 20 short of Duke's record of 50. Even more amazing, he has accomplished the feat with two years of eligibility remaining.

"I'm just seeing the ball real good right now," said Mohr. "Whether or not it lasts remains to be seen, but I'm as comfortable at the plate as I've ever been."

Wells is pleased, but not surprised. "There has always been a special place in my heart for Dustan," he said. "I knew when we signed him that he was capable of almost anything offensively. He's not perfect. He doesn't hit the off-speed stuff as well as we would like, but when it comes to hitting the fastball, he's one of the best I've seen at this level. If he continues to improve, he has a very bright future in baseball."

The consensus among pro scouts is that Mohr is the top-rated prospect on the Tide team. He has unlimited power, a better-than-average arm and acceptable speed—the three factors most scrutinized by pro scouts.

"Pro ball is something that's always at the back of my mind," said Mohr. "But you have to keep it in the proper perspective. There's not a guy on this team who doesn't want to make it at the next level, but right now, my goal is to help this team win a national championship. That's all I'm thinking about right now. I'll just see what happens with the draft when the time comes."

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Alabama Gymnasts Go For Repeat

by Andrew Varble II

Once again, Pattersons appear to have Crimson Tide peaking at championship time

From the midst of a hectic and often scary autumn, Sarah and David Patterson have molded another solid team ready to test its mettle at the NCAA Championships. And to be a solid Alabama team is to be in the hunt for an NCAA Championship. During the summer, in the midst of recruiting, the Pattersons went searching for a new assistant coach. Scott Mackall, the Tide's assistant for the past four years, left coaching for private business at the end of the 1996 season. Sarah's wish list for his replacement was one name long. Bryan Raschilla, formerly Michigan's top assistant, joined the Tide in July.

August saw a Tide in transition. After 14 years of practicing in McMillan Building, the Crimson Tide moved into its palatial new practice facility, newly built at the South end of Coleman Coliseum. David, Scott and Bryan worked long hours for several weeks getting Alabama's new equipment set up and installed. It was during this period that David suffered a fall that may have saved his life. While moving equipment into the new facility he fell off a loading dock, injuring his side. Through the surge of getting the new gym in order before the start of practice, David ignored the pain that was growing in his side until everything was in order, and then he took a trip to see team physician Jimmy Robinson. What Dr. Robinson found was a broken rib on his left side and, after further tests, a two inch tumor encapsulated in Patterson's right kidney. Within a few weeks of finding the tumor, David had surgery to remove the kidney and the tumor. The operation was a success and tests showed that the renal carcinoma had not spread beyond the kidney. Recovery for David has gone as expected. He was back in the gym coaching and planning for a competitive season within a matter of weeks.

Just when things were starting to get back to normal, in November junior All-America Shay Murphy tore her anterior cruciate ligament while practicing vault takeoffs. The Canton, Michigan, native was slated to be out for the season after a late November surgery to repair the damaged knee. And so it came to be that Alabama limped into the defense of its NCAA Championship, battered but unbowed.

Now, three months later, Alabama is on the verge of the championship season and



Kim Bonaventura



Meredith Willard



Stephanie Woods

the Tide has enjoyed a year that belies its rocky start. Through the regular season, Alabama has produced a 13-2 mark, including a 5-2 mark in Southeastern Conference competition. In at least one respect, the high point of the regular season came in a meet that Alabama didn't win. On February 1, Sarah Patterson and her charges became the first women's program in Tide history to sell out Coleman Coliseum. A grand total of 15,040 fans packed the house as Georgia edged Alabama in an extraordinary dual meet. The 1997 season will go down in Tide history as the "Year of the Fan." For the first time, Alabama led all gymnastics programs for attendance, averaging 10,301 per meet, finishing well ahead of second place Utah's 9,773. The Tide's success with the fans was the product of years of work by Sarah and David Patterson and generations of Alabama gymnasts.

Its success in 1997 has and will continue to hinge on its dominating senior class and a group of underclassmen who are hitting their stride with a vengeance. Seniors Kim Bonaventura, Meredith Willard and Stephanie Woods have been the rocks on which the Tide has built the 1997 season.

Bonaventura has emerged as one of the Tide's top vaulters, scoring a career high 9.975 against Kentucky in early February. If

the Houston, Texas, native holds steady, her pre-season goal of earning All-America honors on the vault could well become reality. The three-year balance beam All-America matched her career high of 9.875 on the beam at the Heart's Invitational in mid-February.

Willard, the defending NCAA all-around champion, has enjoyed a career year both in and out of the gym. This fall she became the first student-athlete to be nominated for the homecoming court. She was subsequently elected to the court and in a moment that was pure Willard, asked David Patterson, out of the hospital by this point, to be her escort. As a member of the NCAA Student-Athlete Advisory Board, the Clemmons, North Carolina, native had an active role in one of the most progressive NCAA Conventions in recent memory. Her out-of-the-gym activities have not distracted her from her relentless pursuit of excellence in the gym. The six-time All-America has twice bettered her career best all-around score, including a 39.775 in the Tide's last home meet, a quadruple meet featuring West Virginia, Michigan State and Southeast Missouri. That mark is second all-time at Alabama, trailing only Dee Dee Foster's 39.800. Willard, the ultimate perfectionist, scored the first 10.0 of her career against LSU, posting the mark on the floor exercise.



Alabama gymnastics has a history of national championships and All-America performers. Thus, the highlight of the 1996-97 season was not a meet result. Indeed, Alabama actually lost its home meet to Georgia. However, the highlight was Alabama hosting a sold-out Coleman Coliseum, a first for Tide gymnastics and a crowd that propelled Bama to having the nation's top gymnastics attendance. University of Alabama Photo by Kent Gidley

She repeated the feat two meets later, at the last home meet of her career, perfectly capping a magical era for Tide fans.

Alabama fans have long enjoyed the graceful, flowing style of gymnastics seemingly perfected by Woods. The former US national team member hasn't lost a step in her final season. Against Kentucky, the Austin, Texas, native scored 10.0 on the balance beam in a move that was wildly popular with the crowd. She also reeled off four straight 9.9 performance on the uneven bars. Going into the last part of the season, Woods seems ready to defend her NCAA uneven bars title and take a shot at adding the balance beam crown as well.

Junior All-America Danielle McAdams enjoyed one of life's rare perfect moments at last year's NCAA Championships, scoring a 10.0 during the meet's last rotation to all but guarantee Alabama NCAA title number three. This season, McAdams has continued to make her presence felt. Against Florida in late January, she scored an O'Connell Center record 9.975 on the balance beam, guiding the Tide to its third highest beam total ever. And just like last season, McAdams is starting to peak just as the Tide makes its final

preparations for the championship season. Her top three all-around scores of the year came in the Tide's last three regular season meets.

Merritt Booth, a two-year All-America junior out of Fort Worth, Texas, again provides Alabama with solid and dependable depth in three events. Her return to the floor exercise at mid-season bolstered that event and she matched her career best uneven bars total, 9.875, against LSU.

The sophomore duo of Mandy Chapman and Gwen Spidle have stepped up their roles from a year ago. Last season, the pair accounted for a total of 22 routines. This season they've accounted for three times that number. Chapman has gone all-around three times and has been steady on three events all season. Spidle has gone three events for the Tide and has become one of the Tide's best floor workers. Freshman Heidi Harriman rounds out the Tide's regulars. The Peachtree City, Georgia, native has been a consistent force for Alabama on three events. Her floor exercise routine, which combines George Thurogood's "Bad to the Bone" and the dance craze of the '90s, the Macarena, has become a crowd favorite.

Every competition is important, but at the level at which Alabama competes in gymnastics, the national championship picture is the focus. The NCAA Regional Championships will be April 5 at Ann Arbor, Michigan, while the NCAA Championship meet will be April 17-19 at Gainesville, Florida.

From the rough start that Alabama endured in the fall, it might have been easy to write the Tide off this season. But there is a reason Alabama has finished in the top two at the NCAA Championships each of the last four years and in the top four each of the last 12. No one prepares a team better for the championship season than the Pattersons. In addition to the athletes that have been on the floor all season long, Murphy's recovery has progressed at an amazing rate. She competed for the first time in the Tide's quad meet, scoring a 9.725 in a balance beam exhibition. Her steadiness and experience could come in handy during the championships. With three determined and talented seniors, an outstanding supporting cast, and Murphy's early return, Alabama strides into April looking for an opportunity to finish the season with yet another top finish.

Skills Taught At The Capstone

by Lynn Morris

Alabama coaches' camps on Crimson Tide campus are valuable, but also fun

It's commonplace in Alabama for kids to fantasize of someday wearing that familiar crimson and white uniform. A small boy may want to be quarterback, dreaming of throwing that winning touchdown pass against Auburn and hearing "Yea, Alabama" as he runs off the field. A little girl may dream of scoring a "10" on the floor exercise in front of legions of adoring fans at Coleman Coliseum.

These dreamers can prepare for their future by attending Alabama summer camps in their respective sports. Whether it's golf, tennis, football, or track and field, the University of Alabama offers a camp for youngsters to improve their overall skills, but most of all, have fun. Alabama coaches and players will be teaching the campers the skills they need to improve to a higher level.

Alabama summer camps offer many choices to campers. For participants who can provide their own transportation and local housing, most camps offer reduced day camp prices. Lunch, but not dinner, is included in the price of the day camp. Overnight campers will be housed in air-conditioned University of Alabama dormitories, where they will be supervised around the clock. Overnight campers are allowed to select their own roommates if application is received early enough. A \$25 dollar key deposit is also required for overnight campers.

All meals provided for campers are planned and prepared by university dietitians to ensure that participants receive maximum nutrition during their stay in Tuscaloosa. In the case of injury, every camp is staffed with a trainer, and DCH Medical Hospital is located right down the street from campus. Most camps also offer camp banks, which allows campers to keep their money in a safe place. Participants are also required to bring some equipment and supplies. Most campers also receive tee-shirts and other souvenirs of their stay in Tuscaloosa.

Here is some general information about the camps offered at The Capstone this summer. Applications and information are available upon request.

BASEBALL: Coach Jim Wells, along with Assistant Coaches Mitch Gaspard, Todd Butler and Kirk Blount will be holding their annual baseball camp following their World Series trip to Omaha. The staff will offer seven sessions throughout the summer to campers who want to advance their baseball skills.

The first three sessions are skills camps. Session one (June 23-25) is a day-camp for ages 6-12. The Session two (July 13-16) and Session three (July 16-19) camps are for ages 13-18. Campers between the ages of 13-18 can work on the specifics. Session four (July 20-23) and Session six (July 27-30) are designed to help campers with their pitching and catching skills. Session five (July 23-26) and Session seven (July 30-Aug. 2) are devoted to hitting.

The price for Session one is \$100. Sessions two through seven will cost \$180 for the day camp, \$240 for overnight campers.

More information about the Alabama baseball camp can be obtained by writing the University of Alabama Baseball Camp, Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393. You can also call the Bama Camp Hotline at (205)348-5258.

BASKETBALL: Men's Coach David Hobbs will hold two sessions of his basketball camp. Session one will take place from June 18-22, with registration being held on June 18 from noon-2 p.m. Session two of the camp will be from June 22-25. Campers must register on June 22 from noon-2 p.m. Both registrations will be held in the lobby of Coleman Coliseum. Participants must be boys between the ages of 8-18. High school graduates are excluded. Campers will be placed into groups based on age and ability levels. Coleman Coliseum, Foster Auditorium, and the Student Recreation Center will be used for instruction. Activities at the camp will include league games, a three-on-three tournament, and drills on basketball fundamentals. The camp will also include group ball handling lectures taught by professional players, college players, and specialists. An awards ceremony will conclude the camp. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend the ceremony.

The cost of the camp is \$250, with a \$100 deposit due at the time of application. Campers applying before May 1 can attend for the reduced rate of \$235. Busses will be provided to transport campers between dormitories and camp facilities. Day camp is \$210, plus \$100 deposit due with the appli-



Jim Wells

cation. A special rate of \$235 is available for groups of five or more. For more information write to David Hobbs, c/o Alabama Basketball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Head Women's Coach Rick Moody will also be hosting three sessions of his basketball camp. An individual camp will be held from June 8-11. A position camp will be held from June 12-14. Both camps are for girls between the ages of 10-18. A day camp only session will also be offered from July 7-11. Ages six through 12 will be instructed from 8 a.m.-noon. The camp for girls over 13 will begin at 1 p.m. and run to 5 p.m. Participants can expect guest lectures, demonstrations, and basketball film. There will also be coaches' chalk talk, and individual competition based on age and ability.

The cost of the camp is \$230 for overnight campers, \$210 if application is received before May 1. Day campers will pay \$175. A \$100 dollar deposit is due at the time of application. The Session three day camp (July 7-11) will cost \$100. For more information on Rick Moody's basketball camp, please write Jeff Lovell, c/o Rick Moody's Girls Basketball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0393.

FOOTBALL: Mike DuBose will be holding his first football camp as head coach this summer. He, along with his staff and various high school football coaches from across the state will be instructing. The camp will be offered in two sessions, and both will be skills and line camps. Session one will run from June 8-11. The junior high camp allows participants from grades six through nine to build their skills, while grades 10-12 will be in another group. Session two will run from June 11-14, and will be divided the same way. Session two will also offer a junior camp, allowing campers in grades two through five to get in on the action.

Registration will be held on the first day of each session at Paty Hall dormitory between the times of 2 and 4 p.m. The price of the camp is \$225, which includes full room and board. Family and friends are invited to watch the final football workout from the press box at Bryant-Denny Stadium. Each camper will also have his picture taken with Coach DuBose, and additional prints can be ordered.

GYMNASTICS: Coach Sarah Patterson, along with assistants David Patterson and Brian Rashillo, will be holding their annual gymnastics camp following their 1996 national championship season, with some members of that championship team helping out in instruction. The camp will be held in the new gymnastics facility located in Coleman Coliseum. Gymnasts will be divided into groups based on ability in order for them to receive the maximum benefit from every workout. The camp will be held in three



David Patterson

sessions: June 1-5, June 8-12, and June 15-19. Registration will be held on the first Sunday of the camp from noon to 1:30 p.m. The cost will be \$400 for overnight campers, plus a \$75 registration fee. Day campers pay the reduced rate of \$250. Gymnasts wishing to stay multiple weeks at the camp can pay an additional \$85 to do so. There must be a minimum of four gymnasts staying in order to stay multiple weeks. Overnight campers can choose their own roommates at registration. The camp will also have a pro shop where gymnasts can purchase necessities. Activities other than gymnastics training will include games, crafts, and watching videos suitable for all ages. Parents and friends are invited to attend the last workout and watch what the gymnasts have learned.

Anyone interested in attending the gymnastics camp should write to the University of Alabama Gymnastics Camp, P.O. Box 860253, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486.

GOLF: Coach Dick Spybey will be instructing at the Alabama Golf Academy for boys and girls. Members of the Alabama golf team, high school coaches, and LPGA and PGA members will also be instructing. The camp is available in two sessions, the first from June 8-12, and the second from June 15-19. The price for the camp is \$525 for overnight campers, and \$350 for day campers. A \$100 application fee is also due, and all applications are due by May 1. Anyone from the age of 10 to a high school senior can attend. Enrollment is limited to the first 40 applicants to ensure a 5:1 student-teacher ratio. Participants are grouped based on age and skill to create a consistent learning atmosphere. Each student will also be given a video/sequence picture of their swing, along with video analysis.

Golfers interested in attending the Alabama Golf Academy should write to the Crimson Tide Golf Academy, 1655 McFarland Blvd., Suite 116, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406.

SOCCER: Don Staley will once again be directing the Crimson Tide Soccer Camp, which will be offered in three sessions. The 1994 SEC Coach of the Year will have an experienced staff of coaches and players to help out in instruction. Session one will run from June 16-20, and will be a boys' team camp. Registration will take place at Coleman Coliseum on June 16, beginning at 8 a.m. This camp is geared toward more advanced players eager to learn and refine their skills. The cost of Session one will be \$175, along with a \$50 application fee. Session two will be a girls' boarding camp, running from June 21-25. Registration for this camp will take place on June 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. These campers are divided into smaller groups to based on age and

playing ability. Emphasis will be on the development of better ball skills, technique, and an overall understanding of the game. The cost of the girls' camp will be \$295, along with a \$100 application fee. Session three will be a boys' and girls' day camp, running from June 21-25 for the ages of 8-14. The camp will last from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day. This camp is geared toward beginning, intermediate, and advanced players who are eager to refine their soccer skills.

The day camp will be divided up into three playing levels. Ages 8-9 will be in the college division, ages 10-12 will be in the major league division, and ages 13-14 will be in the World Cup division. These divisions are designed to help players excel and comprehend at a faster pace. The cost of the day camp is \$100, with a \$25 fee due with application. Registration will take place on July 21, beginning at 7 a.m. For more information on the Crimson Tide soccer camp, write to the University of Alabama Women's Soccer Office, Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

SOFTBALL: Coach Kalum Haack and staff will be holding their softball camp this summer, following their first year of play at the Capstone. The camp will run from June 9-June 12, with check-in starting at 8:30 a.m. and running to 10 a.m. Each camper will receive personal attention from Coach Haack and his staff. The cost for the overnight camp is \$280 while day camp is \$220. Girls from 10 years old to recent high school graduates are invited to attend.

SWIMMING: The Alabama Swimming Camp will continue its tradition of being one of the best camps in the country for young swimmers.

Head coaches Chuck Horton and Vance Rose will be on-hand, along with Coach Katie Gilbert and Coach Ed Reed to personally instruct young swimmers. The camp is available in four sessions. Session one runs from May 25-30, Session two from June 1-June 6, Session three from June 8-13,



Vance Rose

and Session four from June 28-July 3. The camps are divided into two division. The first division is stroke analysis, focusing on correcting strokes and developing new techniques. Campers will watch stroke films and listen to lectures that will help them improve their performance. This camp is designed for swimmers with some competitive experience. The other division of the Alabama swim camp is designed for elite swimmers. This group will train with some of the elite swimmers in the world. Campers should stay a minimum of two weeks, and applications must be approved for acceptance into this group. Time standards must be met to qualify.

The cost of the stroke camp is \$395 for the first week, and \$315 for each additional

week. A deposit of \$100 is due with the application, \$50 of which is not refundable. The cost of the day camp is \$280 for one week. The elite camp costs \$750 for two weeks. A \$100 deposit is required upon application, and \$50 of that is not refundable. Registration will be held on the first day of the session between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. at Tutwiler Hall. Swimmers interested in attending should write to the Alabama Swim Camp, Inc., P.O. Box 866103, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486.

TENNIS: The 1997 Crimson Tide Tennis Camp will be directed by head Alabama Men's Tennis Coach Joey Rivé. The former world-ranked professional player will be holding three sessions of his camp for girls and boys. An experienced staff will also be on-hand to ensure personal attention with a 4:1 student-teacher ratio. The camp is quickly building a reputation for excellence in tennis instruction. The first session will run from June 8-12, the second from June 15-19, and the third from June 22-26. Registration will take place on the first day of each session, between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at Tutwiler Hall. The costs for overnight camp is \$375, \$225 for day camp. For more information, please write Coach Joey Rivé, Crimson Tide Tennis Camp, Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

TRACK & FIELD: The University of Alabama will once again be sponsoring the Southeast Elite Track and Field Camp. Interim Head Coach David Troy and his staff will be developing the individual strengths of each camper. Alabama's state-of-the-art Sam Bailey Track and Field Stadium will be used for the camp. The camp also allows participants to experiment in any event they wish to try. The camp session will run from June 22-25. Since enrollment is limited, an application should be completed as early as possible.

The cost for overnight camp is \$199, and day camp is \$170. A discount rate of \$179 is available for groups of eight or more.

A separate cross country camp will also be held at a time to be announced later.

To participate, write to April Ecker, Athletics Department-Coleman Coliseum Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

VOLLEYBALL: Head Alabama Volleyball Coach Judy Green will be directing the 1997 Alabama Volleyball Camp. The camp will offer three sessions. Session one runs from July 20-July 24, Session two from July 25-27, and Session three from July 31-Aug. 1. Session one will be an individual camp, costing \$265 for overnight, \$210 for day camp. Session two will be a specialty skills camp, costing \$150 for overnight, \$100 for day camp. Session three will be strictly a team camp, costing \$220 for overnight campers, \$175 for day campers. Each camper will receive personal attention from Coach Green and her experienced staff.

For more information about the Judy Green Volleyball Camp, please write to Judy Green Volleyball Camp, P.O. Box 870393, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487.

Spring Signing Day Closing In

by Kirk McNair

Tide men's basketball appears to be in the hunt for high school and junior college players

With the spring signing period approaching, there is a tendency to anticipate "Signing Day," April 9. However, traditionally in the late signing period for sports other than football, there is not a great deal of activity on the first day. Much of the recruiting will still be under way and many of the signees will not be in until closer to the end of the spring signing period, May 15.

Most of the attention on the spring signees is on men's basketball, and for particular good reason that is the case at Alabama this year. Alabama Head Coach David Hobbs signed three players in the early signing period, and the Tide had only two seniors. However, Bama was already

below the overall limit of 13 signees. Additionally, three players were suspended late in the season, and it is likely none of them will return next year.

The lost seniors are small forward Eric Washington and center Thalamus McGhee. Those suspended and unlikely to return are point guard George Brown, shooting guard Anton Reese and small forward Ricky Poole. Additionally, Blake Thrasher, an upcoming junior wing player, was on a one-year scholarship.

In the early period, Bama added point guard Tarik London of Savannah, Georgia; wing player Terrence Martin of Tuscaloosa; and inside player Neil Ashby of East Point, Georgia. Unfortunately, Ashby has still not

gained eligibility, which could add to Alabama's numbers problems.

Five scholarship players return from last year's squad. They are: point guard Brian Williams, forward Demetrius Alexander, wing guard Damon Bacote, back-up forward M.C. Mazique and back-up center Jeremy Hays. Additionally, Bama will add 6-7 forward Alfred Moss to the rolls of the eligible. Moss was on scholarship this year and practiced with the team, but was ineligible to play in games.

Thus, even with no more attrition, Alabama could add four signees in the spring period and be at the limit of 13 scholarship men's basketball players. If there is other attrition among returning players (which is not expected) or if Ashby does not gain academic eligibility, Hobbs could sign even more new players this spring. The difficulty, of course, is finding good players and convincing them to join the Crimson Tide.

One top prep player has been announced as committed to sign with Bama in the spring period. Although he is a native of Nigeria, he is playing at one of the leading prep schools in the United States. Ugo Udezue (pronounced oo-DEZH-way) is a 6-8, 230-pound forward at Riverdale Baptist High School in Baltimore, Maryland, who has said he will sign with Alabama this spring.

"I chose Alabama because of the academic and athletic programs," Udezue said. "I believe I will have an opportunity to play quickly there."

Riverdale Baptist competes against many of the top private schools in the East. Indeed, Udezue came to the United States to complete his senior year of basketball at another of those top schools, Redemptorist of New York, but transferred to Riverdale before the start of basketball season. His coach at Riverdale is Walter Webb. Udezue averaged 19 points and 24 rebounds per game, and had a top game of 26 points and 32 rebounds.

It is not unusual that Udezue is in the United States for his education. His father is a graduate of Northwestern and his mother a graduate of Columbia. Although he has been in the United States only since last fall, he is expected to be academically

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eligible. However, he has not yet taken the standardized test (ACT or SAT). "Education is very important in my family," he said.

He picked Alabama over Clemson and also considered Maryland, Georgetown, Boston University and Houston. Although there were reports Georgetown and Indiana had continued to recruit Udezue after he committed to Alabama, his commitment is considered firm.

Alabama is still in the hunt for a top prep prospect in Mississippi. Rouldra (pronounced RAH-dray) Thomas is a 6-7, 205-pound forward at Natchez, where he starred for Coach Mike Martin. Thomas averaged 20.1 points per game and made second team all-state, but is considered among the top college prospects in the state.

Thomas is not likely to be an early signee. He plans to visit all five schools he is considering—Alabama, North Carolina State, Connecticut, Temple and Mississippi State.

Bama is out of the running for another top Mississippi prep player. Marcell Patterson is a 6-5 point guard from Eupora, where he averaged 29.4 points per game playing for his father, Thomas Patterson. His father said he had narrowed his choices to Mississippi State and Minnesota.

The Tide is not involved with two high school players in Alabama who have been considered possible prospects. Alex Beason, a 6-4 guard for Coach Johnny Pelham at Albertville, averaged 25.3 points per game and was the 5A Player of the Year in Alabama. However, his coach said Alabama (nor any other major college) had offered Beason, who is expected to gain academic eligibility.

Bama was also loosely linked with 6-8 center Sam Williams of Demopolis, who averaged 16.5 points per game for Coach Luke Hallmark. Williams announced that he would sign with the College of Charleston. His mother lives in Charleston, South Carolina.

One of the top high school players in the nation is 6-4 guard Dion Glover of Cedar Grove High School in Ellenwood, Georgia, and some reports listed him with Alabama earlier this year. However, Bama is not on Glover's list of schools.

Information from Louisiana is sketchy, but the Tide may be involved with guard Byron Mouton of Rayne, Louisiana, who is also considering Arkansas.

Alabama is expected to be involved with top junior college players in the late signing period. The best known of those has been linked with Alabama since early last fall. He is Francisco Elson, a 7-0, 230-pound center at Kilgore Junior College in Texas. Elson, a native of Rotterdam, The Netherlands, has

been reported as committed to Alabama, but that is not the case. Elson intends to make at least two recruiting trips this spring before signing, and one of those trips is to Arizona, a Final Four team this year. Cincinnati, which was ranked pre-season number one by some publications, is another school actively pursuing Elson. Elson had an excellent year for Coach Phil Shumaker, including leading Kilgore to an upset of the nation's top-ranked team, Tyler, and being named conference player of the week on several occasions.

Jabari Smith is a 6-11, 260-pound center who was named Georgia Junior College Player of the Year for his play for Coach Bobby Pritchett at Atlanta Metropolitan College. Smith, who led his team to a 24-4 record, including a 14-0 conference record, averaged 19.6 points, 12.2 rebounds and 3.7 blocked shots per game. He is a native of Atlanta who played at Washington High School. His coach said Smith is being pursued by many of the nation's top college basketball programs, but that he expected Smith to stay in the Southeast. He also said Smith has not yet decided which five schools he will visit and make his decision from.

A reporter from Kansas City, who was in Birmingham covering the NCAA

Tournament and who is very familiar with NCAA regulations, expressed surprise at reports that Adrian Person, the 6-7 forward for Coach Ron Radford at Southern Union Junior College in Wadley, might end up at Auburn. Auburn ran afoul of NCAA regulations in signing junior college players a couple of years ago and agreed as part of its penalty not to sign any junior college players this year. Then reports surfaced that Person might walk on at Auburn. Auburn had signed him out of Brantley High School, but he was not academically eligible. The story out of Auburn is that Person's expenses would be paid by one or both of his high-profile cousins, former Auburn and current NBA players Chuck and Wesley. The Kansas City reporter said the NCAA would not allow that, that if Person walked on at Auburn his expenses would have to be paid by him or his immediate family. However, even if Auburn is unable to get Person, that doesn't mean he will end up at Alabama.

While Alabama coaches attended the National Junior College Tournament and may have spotted other junior college players worthy of recruiting, the only other known junior college player linked with Bama is 6-7 forward Oral Roberts of Bossier Parish in Louisiana.

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BAMA SCORECARD

All-Stars

Six Alabama football signees have been selected for the Alabama all-star team that will meet the all-stars from Mississippi in this year's Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Classic at Ladd Stadium in Mobile on June 14.

The team will be coached by former Tide player Robert Higginbotham, who coached the Alabama team to victory in the 1988 game. Higginbotham is head coach at Birmingham Shades Valley.

Among the Alabama high school all-stars will be Bama signees defensive back Kecal Bailey and running back Antoneyo Williams, both of Tuscaloosa Central; running back Adam Cox of Jasper Walker; defensive end Shawn Draper of Huntsville Butler; defensive end Larry Paul of Moody; and linebacker Chris Wheeler of Sylacauga B.B. Comer.

Long Gone

Former Alabama baseball player Joe Vitiello has been the talk of the spring training world in Florida. Vitiello, a member of the Kansas City Royals, slammed his fourth home run of the spring in a 5-3 exhibition victory over the Cincinnati Reds. But it wasn't just any home run.

The Kansas City Star quoted Royals pitcher Tim Belcher as saying, "I had my back turned—I'd just gotten a drink of water—when I heard this explosion at home plate."

The explosion was Vitiello driving a ball over a billboard in left field at the 340 mark. But it didn't just clear the billboard. It went over the bleachers behind it and a wall behind the bleachers and a road behind the wall and into a parking lot, where it slammed into a green car.

After the game the groundskeeper sent his staff out with a tape measure. A witness showed them the car the ball had hit in the air. The dent showed the seams of the baseball. From there to home plate was 558 feet.

It is believed the longest home run in baseball history was one hit by Mickey Mantle, 565 feet, just seven feet longer than the blast Vitiello hit off John Smiley.

Vitiello didn't know about the measurement when he left the ball park. He was later asked if it was his longest ever. He shrugged and said, "It doesn't matter. It only counts for one run."

Milestones

When Alabama opened the baseball season with eight straight victories, it gave Coach Jim Wells his 100th victory as head coach of the Tide barely into his third season with the Tide. When Bama ran its record to 16-1 with a 7-2 win over Winthrop, it gave Wells his 300th win in his eighth year as a head coach.

When Bama blasted Alabama-Birmingham, 11-2, it marked the 15th straight Alabama victory over in-state competition.

Bama junior first baseman/outfielder/relief pitcher Roberto Vaz was named Southeastern Conference Player of the Week after leading Bama to two victories over eighth-ranked Florida in Gainesville. The wins propelled Bama to a ranking of third in the nation.

Alabama lost its first series of the year and first ever loss of a series to an SEC Eastern Division team in Knoxville, but Vaz continued to hit well and also had a pitching save in Bama's lone win. Vaz had hit safely in Alabama's first 25 games. David Magadan began the 1981 season (and his Alabama career) with hits in his first 27 games.

Welcome To The City

While Alabama and Auburn are rivals in all sports, the Alabama radio broadcast crew does believe in fair play. Thus, when Auburn found itself without broadcasting equipment in Memphis at this year's SEC men's basketball championships, The Alabama Sports Network was willing to lend the Auburn crew equipment.

So how did Auburn's broadcast crew happen to end up without its equipment? The chief engineer pulled up to his hotel in Memphis and found a bus blocking the entrance. He left his sports utility vehicle with \$10,000 in the care of a man who said he would watch it. The helpful citizen also suggested the Auburn engineer leave the keys in case the vehicle had to be moved. When he returned for his vehicle, it was gone, and the hotel valet had no knowledge of its whereabouts.

The Alabama crew enjoyed a laugh, but provided equipment.

Basketball Honors

Although the Alabama men's basketball team had a very disappointing season, a handful of Tiders did earn recognition for their play.

Senior forward Eric Washington was named first team All-SEC by the league coaches and second team by the Associated Press. The AP put point guard Brian Williams and forward Demetrius Alexander on their third teams.

Washington finished his career as the all-time Alabama leader in three-pointers made and attempted, three-pointers made and attempted in a season, and three-pointers attempted in a game.

No NIT

Last year Alabama made it to the Final Four of the National Invitation Tournament, the tournament for teams not selected to the NCAA party for 64.

This year Alabama said "No" before the NIT could even say "Please." Alabama Head Coach David Hobbs, playing with only eight scholarshiped players, decided his players had gone long enough and hard enough. Additionally, there is plenty of work to be done in recruiting, and so Bama

coaches were able to hit the road rather than try to get a team ready for the NIT.

Bama would not have been able to host a first round game because the Alabama women's team was hosting NCAA Tournament first and second round contests. Last year the Tide men had to go on the road to win their way into the finals at Madison Square Garden.

Women's Disappointments

For most women's basketball teams, a season like Alabama's would be a dream come true. However, because of great expectations, the year was almost a nightmare for the Crimson Tide.

There is certainly nothing for Bama to be ashamed of. Coach Rick Moody's team had a fine 25-7 record and reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. However, the Crimson Tide had been picked to win the Southeastern Conference championship this year and came up a game short in regular season play and was knocked out in the semifinals of the SEC Tournament. Bama was also a pre-season pick to finish as high as second in the nation and the Tide was a number two seed in the NCAA Regional Tournament. Alabama was ranked in the nation's top ten throughout the season and was never lower than eighth.

When Bama went to halftime against Notre Dame with a nine-point lead and a chance to go to the regional finals, things looked good. But in the second half the Irish blistered Bama with a 25-point turnaround, and the Tide was out of the tournament with an 87-71 loss. Bama had defeated Notre Dame in three previous meetings against the Irish and the Tide is now 13-8 in all-time NCAA Tournament play.

Tide stars Shalonda Enis and Dominique Canty are among the nation's 45 finalists for Kodak All-America. Enis was selected for the team last year.

Enis was third team All-America and Canty and Leah Monteith were honorable mention by the Associated Press.

Enis and Canty were first team All-SEC with Canty one of four unanimous selections as voted by the league coaches and Yolanda Watkins was second team. The Associated Press had Enis on its first team and Canty on its second team.

Additionally, Head Coach Rick Moody was one of the finalists for the Naismith Award, presented by the Atlanta Tipoff Club to the national coach of the year.

No Interference

Arizona's men's basketball team was happy to be playing its way to the Final Four of the NCAA Basketball Tournament by going through the state of Alabama and not having to play The University of Alabama.

While many cited Arizona's many failures in first round play of the tournament, the Wildcats have been relatively successful in

the NCAA Tournament. And they've been very successful when not meeting a Southeastern Conference team and, particularly, when not playing Alabama. Of 12 Arizona losses in NCAA Tournament play prior to this year, the Wildcats had lost only one by double digits, a 77-75 setback to Bama in 1990.

Additionally, Arizona has never beaten an SEC team in the tournament, 0-4 against SEC teams and 0-2 against Bama. The other loss to Alabama came in the 1985 tournament, 50-41.

Arizona was sent to Birmingham in the Southeast Regional where the Wildcats turned in one of the key upsets of the tournament, ousting number one ranked Kansas.

Every Year Is A Good Year

In 1994, SEC gymnastics coaches named Alabama's Meredith Willard the league's "Freshman of the Year." At this year's SEC Championships in Athens, Georgia, Willard was competing with a bad back, but managed to score a pair of 9.9s, one on vault and one on floor exercise. And the league coaches named her the 1997 "SEC Athlete of the Year."

In addition to having Willard hampered, Bama was without the services of junior all-around Danielle McAdams and had only limited participation from freshman Heidi Harriman because of injuries. All are expected to recover in time for regional and national championship competition.

With Alabama at less than full strength, Georgia was not challenged in winning the championship with a record score. The Dogs were followed by Florida, LSU and Alabama. Sophomore Mandy Chapman earned All-SEC honors as one of the top six all-around performers.

Tough Opponent

The chicken pox proved to be one opponent too many for Alabama's 25th ranked men's tennis team. Playing its 12th consecutive match against a ranked opponent, Bama fell to 14th ranked LSU, 4-3. The Tide had to play without Alin Taranga, who is nationally-ranked in doubles and plays at number three or four in singles, when Taranga was diagnosed with chicken pox.

Fortunately, Bama was able to defeat Auburn, 6-3, without Taranga.

Diving Success

For the seventh time since 1981, Alabama has produced the Southeastern Conference Men's Diver of the Year. Sophomore Brent Roberts won two events and finaled in a third to earn the honor. Roberts held off a hard-charging Evan Stewart of Tennessee to win the SEC three-meter title. The pre-med major flexed a little diving muscle on the 10-meter platform, winning by nearly 100 points.

Roberts' 10-meter title marked the fifth time that Alabama has won that event since its inception in 1989.

Diving Coach Pat Greenwell earned SEC Men's Diving Coach of the Year for the fourth time in his 10 years with the Crimson Tide. In addition to Roberts, Greenwell coached both senior Josh Lubber and fresh-

man Alan Rose into the finals of the 10-meter event. Lubber and Roberts both finaled off the one-meter board. Alabama diving coaches have earned Coach of the Year honors nine times since 1981, with Greenwell's four leading the way.

Alabama's women were also impressive. Senior Dana Bleich came within a few points of repeating as the conference 10-meter champion, coming in second. Bleich also finaled off the three-meter board, taking fifth. Sophomore Tina Anderson finished third off the one-meter board. Tuscaloosa native Jill DeVasher, a junior, also finaled off the 10-meter, coming in seventh.

Sophomore sprint ace Rania Elwani won the women's 50 freestyle and finished second in both the 100 and 200 freestyles. All three of Elwani's swims were school records. In the 50 and 100 she bettered her own school marks. In the 200 freestyle, she broke current Tide assistant coach Katie Gilbert's 1989 school record.

Senior distance ace Ann-Sofie Joensson finished third in the mile, turning in a 16:27.14, the third fastest time in Crimson Tide history. Joensson also owns the top two times.

Alabama finished sixth in both the men's and women's SEC Championships.

Another Track Coach Retires

It was a surprise midway through the in-

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door track and field season when Head Coach Doug Williamson announced his retirement, effective immediately. Then, just as the outdoor season was getting under way, longtime Assistant Coach Wayne Williams announced his retirement.

Williams came to Alabama in 1976 as a graduate assistant coach and had been a full-time assistant for 19 years. Williams was the sprints and hurdles coach for Bama.

David Troy, an assistant track coach who also served as head cross country coach, continues as interim head coach of the men's and women's teams.

Track All-America

Tim Broe, a sophomore distance runner, finished fourth in the NCAA Indoor Championships in the 3000-meter run to earn All-America. He had also been All-America in cross country.

Overlooked

It's hard to overlook Yolanda Watkins, a 6-2 center for the Alabama women's basketball team. But somehow she was overlooked for Academic All-SEC when the scholastic squad was announced in early March. Watkins, an education major, expressed her disappointment at not being named to the squad since she had met the qualifications.

Alabama officials looked into the matter and found that a grade had not been turned in at the time the nominating list was sent to the conference office. However, the mistake was rectified and Watkins, who was second team All-SEC this year, was added to the honor roll.

In order to make Academic All-SEC a player must have maintained at least a 3.0 grade point average.

Watkins joined four other Tiders on the honor squad, including another starter, Leah Monteith, and key reserves Pam Duncan, Cara Crosslin and Jennifer Teeple.

St. Patrick's Day Green

There was a lot of green around the Alabama volleyball offices on St. Patrick's Day as Bama Head Coach Judy Green announced the signing of Michelle Green, a 5-1 middle hitter from Rolla, Missouri.

Green was the fourth volleyball signee of the year. She ended her prep career after setting 49 match, season and career records at Rolla High School and leading the state in kills. She was first team all-state as a senior after having been second team all-state as a junior.

She is also all-state as a sprinter in track and as a point guard on the basketball team. Additionally, she is a member of the National Honor Society with a 3.95 grade point average.

Alumni Golf

The New Orleans chapter of the Alabama National Alumni Association will host a golf tournament to raise funds to endow scholarships to The University. The event will be May 12 at Lakewood Country Club in conjunction with the regular chapter spring meeting. For complete information contact Coby Nungesser at (504) 888-4901 or Melissa Hodgson at (504) 891-8954.

1996-97 Alabama Winter Sports Results

Men's Basketball

UA	Opponent	Opp.
99	Marathon Oil (Exh.)	86
79	BC Sibenik Croatia (Exh.)	70
Top of the World Classic @ Fairbanks, Alaska		
58	UNC-Wilmington	51
79	Southern Illinois	58
77	Middle Tennessee State	74
93	Northeastern Illinois	50
95	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	44
70	Minnesota	67
80	@ Florida International	65
100	Western Carolina	48
72	North Texas	55
72	Virginia Commonwealth @ Birmingham	69
Cable Car Classic @ San Jose, Calif.		
59	San Jose State	60 (OT)
62	Santa Clara	77
84	@ Vanderbilt	92
59	@ Ole Miss	46
66	Syracuse (CBS)	70
68	Arkansas	72
66	@ Florida	85
60	South Carolina (JP)	62
75	LSU	66
62	@ Auburn (ESPN)	72
51	@ Mississippi State (JP)	64
74	Georgia	83
61	@ Tennessee (JP)	65
57	Ole Miss	54
78	@ LSU	72
61	Kentucky (JP)	75
55	Auburn (SS)	50
53	@ Arkansas (JP)	73
78	Mississippi State	49
SEC Tournament @ Memphis		
80	Florida	66
61	South Carolina	72

Women's Basketball

UA	Opponent	Opp.
116	Uralmash (Exh.)	45
Hall of Fame Classic @ Stanford, Calif.		
65	Stanford (ESPN)	74
71	Athletes In Action (Exh.)	53
San Juan Shootout, San Juan, Puerto Rico		
102	Arizona State	74
88	Puerto Rico-Mayaguez	32
81	North Carolina State	91
Sheraton Capstone Inn Classic		
62	Jackson State	37
85	Lynn	44
Holiday Beach Classic @ Conray, S.C.		
89	Akron	44
68	Penn State or Furman	47
88	North Carolina	74
Miami Holiday Classic @ Coral Gables		
70	Grambling State	67
73	Miami	43
70	Oral Roberts	65
88	Ole Miss	60
68	@ Auburn	65
72	@ Mississippi State	52
68	@ Georgia (Prime TV)	64
101	@ Oral Roberts	67
78	Kentucky @ Cincinnati	62
60	Tennessee (Prime TV)	63
78	Jackson State	44
74	@ LSU	84
102	Arkansas	61
87	South Carolina (SS)	38
89	Auburn	57
86	@ Florida (Sunshine TV)	81
67	@ UNC-Charlotte	69 (OT)
70	Vanderbilt (ESPN2)	60
SEC Tournament @ Chattanooga		
85	Arkansas	63
72	Florida	83
NCAA Tournament @ Tuscaloosa		
94	St. Francis	50
61	St. Joseph's	52
NCAA Tournament @ Columbia, S.C.		
71	Notre Dame	87

Gymnastics

UA	Opponent	Opp.
193.75	@ Penn State	190.3
195.525	Auburn	189.85
196.75	@ Florida	195.475
196.35	Georgia	196.525
196.525	Kentucky	193.525
North Carolina State Five-Way		
Alabama 196.25, North Carolina		
State 192.575, New Hampshire 191.6,		
Kent 191.525, Rhode Island 189.275		
197.325	LSU	195.65
196.6	@ Georgia	197.875
Senior Night Four-Way		
Alabama 196.85, Michigan State 193.75,		
West Virginia 192.525,		
SE Missouri State 191.65		
195.3	@ Auburn	194.6
March 22	SEC Championships @ Athens, Ga.	Fourth
April 5	NCAA Regionals @ Ann Arbor, Mich.	
April 17-	NCAA Championships	
April 19	@ Gainesville, Fla.	

Women's Swimming & Diving

UA	Opponent	Opp.
84	@ Northeast Louisiana	23
82	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	27
113	Florida	130
107	@ LSU	135
Illinois Invitational		
121	Illinois State	44
99	Southern Illinois	49
109	Missouri	59
60	Northwestern	53
52	Illinois	61
136	@ Georgia	155
177	@ North Carolina State	63
70	@ South Carolina	43
85	Arkansas @ South Carolina	26
104	Auburn	136
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	Sixth
100	Tennessee	130
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
March 13-	NCAA Zone Diving	
March 15	@ Auburn	
March 20-	NCAA Championships	
March 22	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	22nd

Men's Swimming & Diving

UA	Opponent	Opp.
75	@ Northeast Louisiana	34
87	Delta State @ Monroe, La.	22
129	Florida	114
105.5	@ LSU	137.5
Illinois Invitational		
112	Ball State	72
92	Southern Illinois	56
106	Missouri	60
93.5	Iowa	56.5
103	Northwestern	37
123	@ Georgia	162
113	@ North Carolina State	130
119	@ South Carolina	124
124	Auburn	161
Feb. 19-22	SEC Championships @ Athens	Sixth
March 8	Alabama Invitational	
Mar. 13-15	NCAA Zone Diving @ Auburn	
March 27-	NCAA Championships	
March 29	@ Minneapolis, Minn.	

Men's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	Fourth
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational	
	@ Jonesboro, Ark.	First
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational	
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.	non-scored
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic	
	@ Lexington	non-scored
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships	
	@ Gainesville, Fla.	Eighth
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships	
March 1	@ Atlanta	
March 7-8	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

Women's Indoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Jan. 11	Saluki Invitational	
	@ Carbondale, Ill.	Seventh
Jan. 18	Arkansas State Invitational	
	@ Jonesboro, Ark.	Second
Jan. 31-	Meyo Invitational	
Feb. 1	@ South Bend, Ind.	non-scored
Feb. 7-8	Wildcat Classic	
	@ Lexington	non-scored
Feb. 21-22	SEC Championships	
	@ Gainesville, Fla.	Tenth
Feb. 28-	USATF Championships	
March 1	@ Atlanta	
March 7-8	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis, Ind.	

1997 Alabama Spring Sports Schedules

Baseball

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
8	Marshall	2
17	Marshall	4
16	Marshall	0
9	Louisiana Tech	3
13	Louisiana Tech	7
21	Michigan	3
19	Michigan	3
22	Michigan	7
	Middle Tennessee	
9	Illinois	2
5	Illinois	3
6	Illinois	5
11	Duquesne	0
15	Georgia	6
10	Georgia	6
6	Georgia	11
7	Winthrop	2
9	Winthrop	7
6	@ Florida 4 (10 inn.)	
13	@ Florida	9
4	@ Florida	9
11	UAB	2
3	@ Tennessee	2
7	@ Tennessee	8
2	@ Tennessee	9
Mar. 25	@ USM	6:30 p.m.
Mar. 28	Vanderbilt	7 p.m.
Mar. 29	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
Mar. 30	Vanderbilt	2 p.m.
Apr. 1	South Alabama	7 p.m.
Apr. 2	@ Middle Tenn.	7 p.m.
Apr. 4	Kentucky	7 p.m.
Apr. 5	Kentucky (SS)	2 p.m.
Apr. 6	Kentucky	2 p.m.
Apr. 8	USM	7 p.m.
Apr. 9	UAB @ Hoover	7 p.m.
Apr. 11	@ Auburn	6 p.m.
Apr. 12	@ Auburn (SS)	1:30 p.m.
Apr. 13	@ Auburn	1:30 p.m.
Apr. 15	@ South Ala.	6:30 p.m.
Apr. 16	@ Samford	2 p.m.
Apr. 18	@ Miss. State	7 p.m.
Apr. 19	@ Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 20	@ Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 22	Troy State	7 p.m.
Apr. 25	Arkansas	7 p.m.
Apr. 26	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 27	Arkansas	2 p.m.
Apr. 29	Samford	7 p.m.
May 2	@ Ole Miss	7 p.m.
May 3	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
May 4	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
May 9	LSU	7 p.m.
May 10	LSU	2 p.m.
May 11	LSU	2 p.m.
May 14-	SEC Tournament	
May 18	@ Columbus, Ga.	
May 22-	NCAA Regionals	
May 25	@ campus sites	
May 31-	College World Series	
June 7	@ Omaha	

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Softball

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
	@ Oklahoma City Invitational	
5	Tulsa	2
0	Oklahoma	12
2	Southwest Missouri	3
0	Kansas	8
	@ Louisiana Classic	
0	Arizona	13
0	SW Louisiana	3
3	Baylor	2
0	Arizona	9
4	Delta State	3
3-2	Michigan	4-5
	Georgia State Tourney	
	@ Atlanta	
2	Troy State	0
4	Georgia State	2
11	Bradley	1
6	Mercer	0
4	LSU	1
1-3	@ Arkansas	9-2
1-7	@ Arkansas	2-1
1-6	@ Samford	5-8
2-15	Kentucky	0-0
1-3	Tennessee	11-6
Mar. 28-	Georgia Tech Tourney	
Mar. 30	@ Marietta, Ga.	
Apr. 2	Auburn	5 p.m.
Apr. 5	@ Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Ole Miss	1 p.m.
Apr. 12	Florida	5 p.m.
Apr. 16	@ Auburn	5 p.m.
Apr. 18	Miss. State	4 p.m.
Apr. 19	@ Miss. State	11 a.m.
Apr. 26	@ So. Carolina	12 p.m.
Apr. 27	@ Georgia	1 p.m.
Apr. 30	Samford	5 p.m.
May 1	FSU	4 p.m.
May 3	@ LSU	2 p.m.
May 4	@ LSU	12 p.m.
May 10-	SEC Tournament	
May 11	@ Columbus, Ga.	
May 16-	NCAA Regionals	
May 18	@ campus sites	
May 22-	College World Series	
May 26	@ Oklahoma City	

All times central

Men's Outdoor Track

Date	Event	Finish
Mar. 15	@ Auburn	
Mar. 20	Alabama Relays	5th
Apr. 5	@ Clemson	
Apr. 10-	@ Sea Ray Relays	
Apr. 12	@ Knoxville, Tenn.	
Apr. 20	Crimson Classic	
Apr. 25	@ Drake Relays	
Apr. 25	@ Penn Relays	
May 4	@ Auburn	
May 15-	SEC Championships	
May 18	@ Auburn	
May 24	@ Georgia Tech	
June 4-	NCAA Championships	
June 7	@ Bloomington, Ind.	

Men's Tennis

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
6	Troy State	1
5	Georgia State	2
4	Southern Miss	3
3	UAB	4
3	@ Fla. Atlantic	4
4	@ Miami	3
4	Georgia Tech	3
3	Miss. State	4
1	Ole Miss	6
7	Arkansas	0
2	@ Georgia	5
	Blue-Grey Classic	
	@ Montgomery	
5	Michigan	2
3	Middle Tennessee	4
4	North Carolina	3
4	Tulane	3
3	LSU	4
5	Auburn	2
Mar. 29	@ Vanderbilt	12 p.m.
Mar. 31	@ Kentucky	2:30 p.m.
Apr. 6	Tennessee	12 p.m.
Apr. 12	@ Florida	11 a.m.
Apr. 17-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 20	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 9-	NCAA Regional	
May 10	TBA	
May 16-	NCAA Championships	
May 25	@ Los Angeles	

All times central

Men's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Feb. 8-9	Florida Invitational	
	@ Gainesville	10th of 15
Feb. 19-21	John Burns	
	@ Honolulu	6th of 27
Feb. 28-	Matlock Intercollegiate	
	@ Lakeland, Fla.	3rd of 18
Mar. 21-23	Spring Invitational	
	@ Montgomery	7th of 18
Apr. 4-6	Carpet Capital	
	@ Dalton, Ga.	
Apr. 11-13	Billy Hitchcock	
	@ Auburn	
Apr 18-20	SEC Championships	
	@ Auburn	
May 15-17	NCAA Regionals	
	TBA	
May 28-	NCAA Championships	
May 31	@ Chicago	

Women's Tennis

Date/ UA	Opponent	Time/ Opp.
7	USM	2
7	@ Ga. Tech	0
5	Arkansas	4
8	UAB	0
	@ Williamsburg, Va.	
6	Maryland	3
5	William & Mary	4
	National Team Indoor	
	@ Madison, Wisc.	
1	Stanford	7
4	Notre Dame	5
1	William & Mary	5
1	@ Georgia	7
5	@ Kentucky	4
3	@ LSU	6
5	South Carolina	4
4	Tennessee	5
5	Indiana	2
3	Vanderbilt	6
Mar. 28	Miss. State	2 p.m.
Apr. 1	@ South Fla.	1 p.m.
Apr. 3	@ Fla. Internat.	1 p.m.
Apr. 6	@ Auburn	12 p.m.
Apr. 11	@ Ole Miss	2 p.m.
Apr. 13	Florida	12 p.m.
Apr. 17-	SEC Championships	
Apr. 20	@ Athens, Ga.	
	TBA NCAA Regionals	
May 16-	NCAA Championships	
May 23	@ Stanford, Calif.	

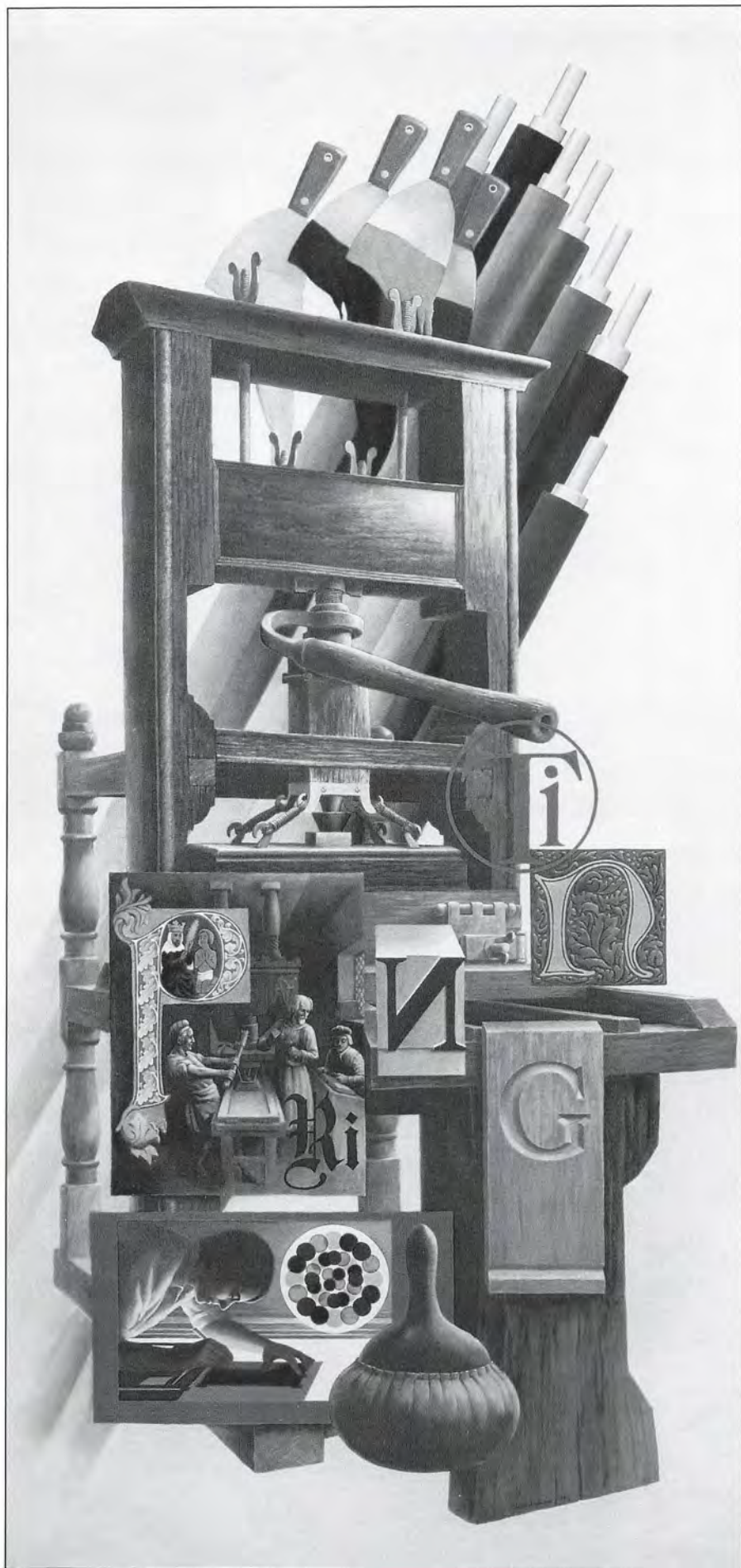
All times central

Women's Golf

Date	Event	Finish
Mar. 1-2	Florida Lady Gator	
	@ Gainesville	10th of 15
Mar. 14-16	LSU Fairwood	
	@ Baton Rouge	4th of 14
Mar. 21-23	South Carolina Inv.	
	@ Columbia	9th of 15
Apr. 11-13	Women's Southern	
	@ Athens, Ga.	
Apr. 18-20	SEC Championships	
	@ Columbia, S.C.	
May 8-10	NCAA Regional	
	TBA	
May 21-24	NCAA Championships	
	@ Columbus, Ohio	

Women's Track

Date	Event	Finish
Mar. 15	@ Auburn	
Mar. 20	Alabama Relays	11th
Apr. 5	@ Clemson	
Apr. 10-	@ Sea Ray Relays	
Apr. 12	@ Knoxville, Tenn.	
Apr. 20	Crimson Classic	
Apr. 25	@ Drake Relays	
Apr. 25	@ Penn Relays	
May 4	@ Auburn	
May 15-	SEC Championships	
May 18	@ Auburn	
May 24	@ Georgia Tech	
June 4-	NCAA Championships	
June 7	@ Bloomington, Ind.	



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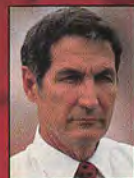
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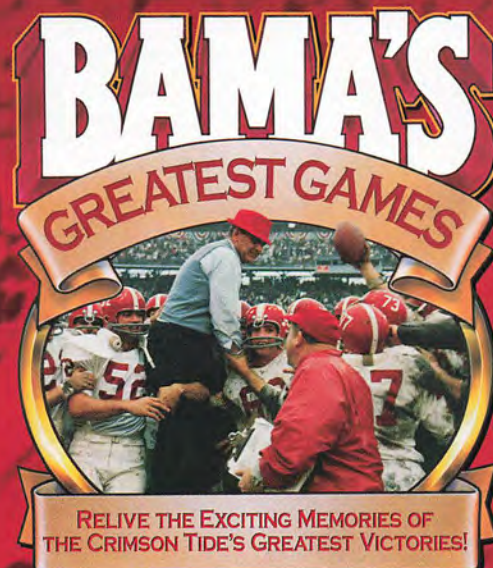
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